

# The Monthly Chronicle

OF

## NORTH-COUNTRY+LORE+AND+LEGEND

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### Leland, the Antiquary, in Durham and Northumberland.

**J**OHN LELAND was a native of London, born early in the sixteenth century. From St. Paul's School he went to Cambridge, and thence to Oxford, where, amidst other studies, he acquired a knowledge of the Saxon and Welsh languages. After residing for a time in Paris he was ordained a priest. In 1533 he was made Royal Antiquary to King Henry VIII., and received a commission under the broad seal of England by virtue of which "he had free liberty and power to enter and search the libraries of all the cathedrals, abbeys, priories, colleges, &c., as likewise all other places wherein records, writings, and whatever else was lodged that related to antiquity." His travels occupied several years, "in which time he went over most part of England and Wales, and was so inquisitive in his remarks, that being not content with what the libraries of the respective houses to which he applied himself afforded, nor with what was recorded in the windows and other monuments belonging to cathedrals, monasteries, &c., he wandered from place to place where he thought there were any footsteps of Roman, Saxon, or Danish buildings, and took particular notice of all the tumuli, coins, inscriptions, &c., which he happened to light upon."

In the course of his journeys, Leland passed through the counties of Durham and Northumberland. It is not always possible to trace the route he took, for his "Itinerary," in which he records his travels, has come down to our time in a fragmentary and disjointed state. The three and half centuries, however, which have elapsed since Leland traversed "the North Countrie," have produced many and great changes, not only in the condition of the people and the status of the great county

families, not only in the condition of monuments of antiquity, churches, monasteries, houses, but also in the very face of the country itself. It is for this reason that Leland's notes and observations are peculiarly valuable. He was an acute observer and a truthful scribe.

Leland appears to have entered the county of Durham at Sockburn, coming thither from Northallerton, and passing over the Tees at Sockburn ferry. Sir George Conyers was then lord of Sockburn, and Leland became his guest. Our antiquary describes Sockburn as "the eldest house of the Conyers," a demeane "of a mile compass of exceeding pleasant ground," which "is almost made an isle as Tees river windeth about it." In Sockburn church he saw "the tomb of Sir John Conyers," who died in 1395. He then enumerates the "notable bridges on Tees," first amongst which he mentions "Yareham [now Yarm] bridge of stone, . . . made as I heard [and heard truly] by Bishop Skirlaw."

From Sockburn, the traveller proceeded to Neasham, and thence "by pure good corn" to Darlington, "the best market town in the bishopric, saving Durham." There, "at the high altar in the collegiate parish church," he saw "an exceeding long and fair altar stone of varied marble, that is, black marble with white spots," clearly being a slab of the local Tees marble. "The Bishop of Durham," he tells us, "hath a pretty palace in this town."

To Auckland Leland next bent his steps—"eight good miles by reasonable good corn and pasture." "A mile at this side Auckland Castle I came over a bridge of one great arch on Gauntless, a pretty river." Auckland, in his opinion, was a town "of no estimation," although

there was "a pretty market of corn." After describing the Castle, he mentions its "fair park," "having fallow deer, wild bulls, and kine."

Leaving Auckland, Leland travelled by Wolsingham, Frosterley, Stanhope, Eastgate, and Westgate to St. John's Chapel. He tells us that "the Bishop of Durham hath a pretty square peel on the north side of Wear river, called the Westgate, and thereby is a park rudely enclosed with stone, of a 12 or 14 miles in compass, in which park there be, as I heard, some little farmholds." "Though the upper part of Weardale be not very fertile of corn, yet is there very fine grass in the dale [it]self where the river passeth. . . . There resort many red deer, stragglers, to the mountains of Weardale. Weardale, lying as a piece of the west marches of the bishopric towards Westmoreland, is well wooded; and so be the quarters about Auckland."

From Weardale Leland seems to have returned to Binchester, "now a poor village," and saw, as he rode past on the south side, "a little foss, and indications of old buildings." He mentions, too, that "in the ploughed fields hard by this village hath [been] and be found many Roman coins, and many other tokens of antiquity."

The Royal Antiquary next proceeded to Brancepeth, where he visited the castle, "strongly set and builded," of which, he tells us, "the pleasure," meaning thereby the pleasant part, was to be found in the second or inner court. In the church he saw "divers tombs of the Nevilles." These tombs furnish him with texts for brief dissertations on the genealogy of that family.

"From Brancepeth to Durham." Much of the traveller's description of the city is too interesting to be omitted.

"The town [it]self of Durham standeth on a rocky hill, and standeth as men come from the south country on the ripe of Wear: the which water so with its natural course in a bottom windeth about, that from Elvet, a great stone bridge of 14 arches, it creepeth about the town to Framwellgate Bridge of three arches, also on Wear, that betwixt these two bridges, or a little lower at St. Nicholas's, the town, except the length of an arrow shot, is brought into an island. . . . The Close itself of the Minster, on the highest part of the hill, is well walled, and hath diverse fair gates. The church itself and the cloister be very strong and fair, and at the very east end of the church is a cross aisle, besides the middle cross aisle of the minster church. The castle standeth stately on the north-east side of the minster, and Wear runneth under it. The keep standeth aloft, and is stately builded of eight-square fashion, and four heights of lodgings. . . . The building of Durham town is metely strong, but it is neither high nor of costly work. There appear some pieces of walls of the town joining to a gate of the Palace wall, but the town itself within the peninsula is but a small thing in respect of compass of the stately Close. In the sanctuary or holy churchyard of Durham, be very

many ancient tombs. It standeth on the south side of the minster; and at the head of one of them is a cross of a seven foot long, that hath an inscription of diverse rowes in it, but the scripture cannot be read. Some say that this cross was brought out of the holy churchyard of Lindisfarne isle."

From Durham Leland journeyed northwards to Chester-le-Street, "partly by a little corn ground, but most by mountainous pasture, and some moors and furze." Before he reached Chester he "saw" Lumley Castle "upon a hill, having pretty wood about it." Chester itself he describes as consisting of "chiefly one street of very mean building in length," and he mentions that "there is besides a small street or two about the church." In the church he saw "a tomb with the image of a bishop, in token that St. Cuthbert once was buried in his feretory there."

From Chester the antiquary proceeded to Gateshead, "by mountainous ground, with pasture, heath, moor, and furze." He records that "a little a this side Gateshead is a great coal pit," probably meaning the one worked from very early times at Camer (now erroneously called Cramer) Dykes.

At this point the "Itinerary" breaks off into other matters; but, after passing over several pages, we find the writer once more at Durham. He now turns his face southward. "From Durham over Elvet Bridge to Sunderland Bridges [Sunderland Bridge, near Croxdale, that is]. . . and by hilly, moorish, and heathy ground" he came to St. Andrew's, Auckland, where "the Dean of Auckland hath a great house, especially the barns and other houses of husbandry." Thence he went forward to Raby Castle, "part by arable, but more by pastures and moorish hilly ground, barren of wood." "Raby," he tells us, "is the largest castle of lodgings in all the north country, and is of a strong building, but not set either on hill or very strong ground." Admitted to the castle, of which he gives a rather minute description, he saw in the hall "an incredible great beam of a hart." "There belong," he declares, "three parks to Raby, whereof two be plenished with deer." Near Raby is Langley Chase, which "hath fallow deer," and is three miles in length. "In the moor land at Middleton," in Teesdale, "the king hath a forest of red deer." He mentions Staindrop, "a small market town," describes its church, and enumerates its monuments.

Leaving Staindrop, Leland took the road "by metely good corn and pasture" to Barnard Castle. "This," he says, "is a metely pretty town, having a good market, and metely well builded. . . . The Castle of Barnard standeth stately upon Tees." In the outer area he found nothing very notable "but the fair chapel, where be two chantries. In the middle of the body of this chapel is a fair marble tomb, with an image, and an inscription about it in French. There is another in the south wall of the body of the chapel, of freestone, with an image of the

same. Some say that they were of the Baliols." The monuments have totally disappeared, and scarcely a trace of the chapel can now be found. Leland proceeds to say, "there belong two parkes to this castle." "There is metely good wood on each side of Tees about Barnard's Castle" he informs us. "Hard under the cliff by Egglestone is found on each side of Tees very fair marble, wont to be taken up both by marblers of Barnard Castle and of Egglestone, and partly to have been wrought by them, and partly sold unwrought to others."

"From Barnard Castle, over the right fair bridge on Tees of three arches I entered straight into Richmondshire," and so left the county of Durham behind.

Leland's notes on Northumberland, although perhaps as extensive as those on the county of Durham, are of different character. He seems to have actually travelled little beyond the Tyne. Indeed, there is scarcely any evidence that he came into any part of Northumberland except Newcastle. For the rest of the county he appears to have been content to accept such information as he could gather by hearsay.

The topographer's account of Newcastle commences rather abruptly with a notice of the great Roger Thornton, which is too interesting to be abridged. "Roger Thornton, the great rich merchant of Newcastle in Edward the Fourth's days [Thornton, by the way, died thirty-one years before the accession of Edward IV.], by whom the Lumley's lands were greatly augmented, as by the marriage of his daughter and heir [she was his granddaughter], built St. Catherine's chapel, the Town Hall, and a place for poor alms-men, by Sand Hill Gate, a little lower than Newcastle Bridge, upon the very ripe of Tyne, within the town of Newcastle. This Roger Thornton was the richest merchant that ever was dwelling in Newcastle." In another place he tells us that Thornton "died wonderfull rich: some say by prizes of silver ore, taken on the sea."

Leland immediately proceeds to notice other hospitals. "One John Ward, a rich merchant of Newcastle, made a Maison Dieu for twelve poor men and twelve poor women, by the Augustine Friars in Newcastle. One Christopher Brigham, a merchant of Newcastle, made of late a little hospital by the Grey Friars in Newcastle." Of these foundations, the first situated in Manor Chare, and the second in the east part of High Friar Lane, not a trace now remains.

Our antiquary next proceeds to give an amusing, but purely mythical, account of the town's walls. "The walls of Newcastle were begun, as I have heard, in King Edward the First's day, as I heard by this occasion: A great rich man of Newcastle was taken prisoner by the Scots out of the town itself, as is reported. Whereupon he was ransomed for a great sum: and returning home again he began to build a wall on the ripe of Tyne river from Sandhill to Pandon Gate, and beyond into the town, against the Augustine Friars. The residue of the mer-

chants of the town, seeing this towardness of one man, set to their helping hands, and continued until the whole town was strongly walled about, and this work was finished in Edward the Third's days, as I have heard. The strength and magnificence of the walling of this town far passeth all the walls of the cities of England, and of most of the towns of Europe."

In a later volume of his Itinerary, Leland resumes his notes of Newcastle. "St. Nicholas," he tells us, "the chief parish church of Newcastle, standeth on the very Pict Wall," meaning the Roman Wall. He has an explicit account to give, if not always a reliable one, of the foundation of each religious house in the town. The Grey Friars, according to him, was founded by the Carliols, "originally merchants of the same town, and after men of land." The Black Friars owed its foundation to Sir Peter and Sir Nicholas Scott, "father and son, knights both," the beginning of whose family's fortune "was by merchandise,"—"but the site of the house was given by three sisters." The establishment of the White Friars he ascribes to Roger Thornton. The Augustine Friars, he informs us, was founded by Lord Ross. "In this house be three or four fair towers," part of one of which may still be found behind the Jesus Hospital. The Cross or Trinitarian Friars of Wall Knoll he holds to have been established by Lawrence Acton.

Once again Leland reverts to Newcastle. His notes in this case are more disjointed than before, and the manuscript from which they have been printed is in some places illegible. The reader must expect, therefore, rapid transitions from one subject to another. The remarks within brackets are mine, and in one or two places local knowledge has enabled me to supply the words which Leland's editor could not decipher.

"Tyne Bridge hath ten arches, and a strong ward and tower on it. [There is] a gate at the Bridge end. Then, turning on the right hand to the Quay, [there is] a chapel of the town [St. Thomas's Chapel] with a Maison Dieu. Then certain houses with a water gate, and a square Hall Place [the ancient Guild Hall] for the town, and a chapel there as I remember. Then a main strong wall on the haven side to Sand Gate, [and so] to Tynemouth way [that is, to the old road, by Sandgate Street, to Shields and Tynemouth. From this point Leland seems to have followed the course of the wall round the town, and to have noted the number of towers between the gates.] Then three towers [on the wall] to Pandon Gate. There, hard by, doth Pandon Dean water drive a mill, and passeth through [the town wall]. On this water, there by, is a little arched bridge. And about this quarter [on Wall Knoll] stood the house of the friars of the order of the Holy Trinity. From Pandon Gate to Pilgrim Gate [there are] fifteen towers. Thence to New Gate [there are] eight. The Observant Friars house stood by Pandon Gate. It was a very fair thing. And lower in the same street, but on the contrary side a little, with a lane, was the house of the

Augustine Friars. From New Gate to West Gate, a mighty strong thing of four wards, and an iron gate, [there are] thirteen towers. The fair place of Black Friars stood betwixt New Gate and West Gate. The Nun's Dean, having two bridges [that is, High Bridge and Low Bridge], resorteth towards Pilgrim Gate, and so downwards to Tyne. The water of both the deans cometh from the coal pits at Cowhill or Cowmoor, half a mile out of Newcastle. There is a park walled and a lodge without the Black Friars and the town wall [this would be the garden and orchard of the Black Friars]. From West Gate to Tyne side [there are] 16 [towers], part almost round, part square. There I saw the hospital Saint [Mary the Virgin], and then the White Friars, whose garth came almost to Tyneside. There be three heads or conduits for fresh water to the town."

The more interesting of Leland's notes on other places in Northumberland shall be strung together. Space for comment is already exhausted.

"Corbridge at this time is full meanly builded. The names of diverse streets that hath been there yet hath names, as old people there testify, and great tokens of old foundations be yet found there, and also Roman coins. The stone bridge that now is at Corbridge over Tyne is large, but it is set somewhat lower upon Tyne than the old bridge was. There be evident tokens yet seen where the old bridge was, and thereabout cometh down a pretty brook on the same side that that town is on, and hard by it, and goeth into Tyne. I think verily that this brook is called Corve, though the name be not well known there, and that the town beareth the name of it. By this brook as among the ruins of the old town is a place called Colechester, where hath been a fortress or castle. The people there say that there dwelled in it one Goton, whom they fable to have been a giant.

"There appear ruins of arches of a stone bridge over Tyne river, at [Bywell] castle, [be]longing to the Earl of Westmoreland.

"Prior Castell of Durham, the last save one, builded the tower in Farne Island for defence, out of the ground. There was a chapel and a poor house afore.

"There was a house of canons at Ovingham-upon-Tyne, against Prudhoe on the other side of Tyne, [occupied by] a master and three canons [as a] cell to Hexham.

"Morpeth, a market town, is twelve long miles from Newcastle. Wansbeck, a pretty river, runneth through the side of the town. On the hither side of the river is the principal church of the town. On the same side is the fair castle, standing upon a hill, [be]longing, with the town, to the Lord Dacres of Gilsland. The town is long and metely well builded with low houses—the streets paved. It is [a] far fairer town than Alnwick. A quarter of a mile out of the town on the hither side of the Wansbeck was Newminster Abbey, of White Monks, pleasant with water and very fair woods about it.

"There be ruins of a castle [be]longing to the Lord Brough at Mitford, on the south side of the Wansbeck, four miles above Morpeth. It was beaten down by the King. For one Sir Gilbert Middleton robbed a cardinal, coming out of Scotland, and fled to his castle of Mitford.

"Tweed riseth in Tweeddale in Scotland, and so cometh through the forest of Ettrick in Scotland, and so through Tynedale in Scotland, the people whereof rob sore and continually in Glendale and Bamboroughshire. At Carham is a little tower of defence against the Scots.

"In Northumberland, as I hear say, be no forests, except Cheviot Hills, where is much brushwood, and some oak, ground overgrown with ling, and some with moss. There is great plenty of red deer and roebucks. But the great wood of Cheviot is spoiled now, and crooked old trees and shrubs remain."

J. R. BOYLE, F.S.A.

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## The Battle of Sark.

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ABOUT the year 1448, when both North and South Britain were in a state approaching anarchy,—in England through the Wars of the Roses, and in Scotland through the turbulence of the Douglasses and other great nobles, which the Royal power was quite insufficient to repress,—some lawless persons on the English or Scottish side (contemporary historians are not very clear which) wantonly broke the truce which had subsisted for some time between the two kingdoms. The thieves who inhabited the Debateable Land were never very particular in which country they made stouthrift, even in the best of times; and the Scottish chroniclers will have it that it was either some of them or some of their not much more reputable neighbours living nearer Carlisle, who first made a foray into Annandale in time of peace. The English chroniclers, on the other hand, lay the blame on the Douglasses, whose design it was, they say, to embarrass young King James the Second and achieve their own family aggrandisements by dragging the country into a war with England. However this may have been, the English authorities were the first to move on what may be called a national scale. Remonstrances made at Edinburgh having led to no redress, the two Wardens of the Marches, the Earls of Northumberland and Salisbury, made up their minds to invade Scotland.

Two considerable armies accordingly crossed the Borders at as nearly as possible the same time. One was led by Henry Percy, Northumberland's eldest son, who was governor of the town and castle of Berwick, with the East Marches of Scotland. He made his way from Berwick along the coast, by Ayton, Cockburnspath, and the Peaths, to Dunbar, which town he burnt, and then he returned the same way, wasting the Merse country, wrecking the few defensible places near his road, and



carrying off everything portable. Salisbury, on the West Marches, penetrated as far as Dumfries, which he in like manner plundered and burnt, and then marched home, satisfied with the mischief he had done.

In revenge for this double inroad, and, moreover, with the view of provoking a formal declaration of war by the English Government, Sir James Douglas, Lord Balveny, a brother of Earl Douglas's, raised his followers with what speed he could, made a raid through Cumberland and Northumberland, and burnt and plundered the town of Alnwick, after desolating the open country.

The Earl of Northumberland and Lord Percy, with Sir Robert Harrington and Sir John Pennington, now assembled a force of six thousand men, and crossed the Solway and Annan waters into Dumfriesshire, where they pitched their camp on the right bank of the little river Sark, which here forms the line of division between England and Scotland. From Sarkfoot, where they lay, they sent out detachments to scour and ravage the country far and wide; but, hearing that the Scots were advancing to attack them, they recalled these parties by sound of trumpet, and made themselves ready for battle.

The Scottish chiefs, as soon as they heard of this formidable inroad, had lost no time in gathering together their forces. Another brother of Earl Douglas's, George, Earl of Ormond, took the command, and he was accompanied by Sir John Wallace, of Craigie, the sheriff of Ayr, the lairds of Johnston and Maxwell, and the Master of Somerville. They numbered only four thousand men in all, but had the great advantage of fighting on their own ground for their hearths and homes, and of taking the enemy, not indeed at unawares, but in a most disadvantageous position, where the treacherous Solway Moss hemmed them in on one side, and the still more treacherous Solway Firth on the other, so that mere relative numbers counted for little.

Among the English officers was a knight named Magnus, who had served several campaigns in France with great distinction, and had risen very high in King Henry's favour. From the colour of his hair he was nicknamed Red Mayne. Magnus was of great strength and extremely fierce, and had a particular dislike to the Scots. It was said he had obtained from the King of England a grant of all the lands he could conquer in Scotland, and he claimed as the post of honour under Northumberland the command of the right wing, while Sir John Pennington took the left, and the earl himself led the centre.

The Earl of Ormond set Wallace of Craigie over against Magnus, and Maxwell and Johnston, with their respective clans, over against Pennington, himself taking the centre. Then, addressing a few words of encouragement to his men, he led them against the enemy. The English, who were very superior in point of archery, let fly a shower of arrows at them as they approached, which galled them sore. Wallace, who commanded the left wing, then cried out, so that all could hear him,

"Gallants, will you let yourselves be shot down thus? Come on! Follow me! Let us in among them full drive! We shall soon let them see how men can fight!" So saying, he rushed forward, and was followed by all his men, every bit as eager to be led into the struggle as he was to lead them. With their long spears or pikes, weapons which every Scottish knight, squire, trooper, or man-at-arms knew well how to wield, they instantly broke the first rank of the English. The Maxwells and Johnstons, sword in hand, fell on the other wing, and made tremendous slaughter. Magnus, when he saw his people giving way, mindful only of his great reputation, and regardless of the imminent deadly risk he ran, made a fierce onset against Wallace, with the view either of retrieving the forlorn hope or of meeting death in the face like a brave man. He was soon surrounded and cut down, together with all who had dared to follow him. As soon as the fact of his death became known, a panic seized the English. Their ranks were irrecoverably broken. Only the more determined and desperate made headway for awhile against their foes. An orderly retreat might perhaps still have been made, but their best and bravest leader had fallen. Fifteen hundred Englishmen lay dead on the field, and a number more, badly wounded, were helpless. There was nothing for the rest but to turn their backs and flee.

Above a thousand prisoners fell into the hands of the victors, who pursued the fugitives until they reached the Esk. Lord Percy, Harrington, and Pennington were among those captured, and were confined for some time, until ransom could be procured, along with other English officers, in Lochmaben Castle, originally the seat of Robert Bruce, Lord of Annandale, but then in possession of the Douglasses. This was the strongest fort on the Western March, and was preserved as a Border fence till the Union of the Crowns.

The Earl of Northumberland escaped with great difficulty, fate having reserved him for the still more bloody field of Towton, where he was one of the forty thousand slain. Lord Percy might have escaped also, but he preferred waiting to help his father to mount a fresh horse, and, while he was so engaged, was taken prisoner.

The booty was unprecedentedly valuable, for the English had been confident of success in their expedition, and looked forward rather to a triumphal march through the invaded district than to anything like serious resistance. And Magnus, who went as a conqueror, and meant to be a colonist, had a deal of "impedimenta" with him.

The route was across the desolate tract at the head of the Solway Firth. The ebbs and flows of that estuary are proverbial for rapidity, as every reader of "Redgauntlet" knows. Not only strangers to the district, but even the most experienced persons, are liable to be overtaken by the tide, at least in thick, foggy weather. On this occasion, before the fugitives had proceeded far, they

heard the awful sound of the waters rushing towards them with impetuosity; and those who had good horses urged them to the top of their speed, but in many cases to no avail. The occurrence of a spring tide with the wind in the south-west, or a dense fog from the sea, would be sufficient at any time in crossing these sands to bring on the best appointed army the world ever saw the fate of Pharaoh and his Egyptian host. That fate now befel five hundred of the Earl of Northumberland's hapless followers, who, when night fell, found themselves in the great watery waste through which the Esk and the Eden make their way to the sea.

It is said that only twenty-six of the Scots were killed outright in the battle; but Buchanan states that they lost six hundred in all, including, we presume, the wounded, and such as died of their wounds.

The brave Sir John Wallace, who was a lineal descendant of "the peerless Knight of Ellerslie," and to whose conduct and bravery the victory was in a great measure ascribed, having been severely wounded in the fray, was carried home on a litter, and died about three months afterwards.

Douglas went to the Scottish court, where he was honourably received, but at the same time got a hint from King James that it would be as well if from henceforth he and his kith and kin would not give encouragement or harbourage to Border thieves, but rather set themselves to root them out.

The news of the battle of Sark caused a great sensation in London; but, though severe reprisals were loudly demanded, nothing was done; for the whole realm was in such disorder that sufficient force could not be spared. Civil broils hindered the raising of a new levy; and the English Government had no option but to send down legates to Edinburgh to treat for peace. The negotiations fell through, so far as regarded a definite treaty, but the truce between the two kingdoms was renewed for three years. And so the hostilities went no further at that time.

### A Jeddart Axe.

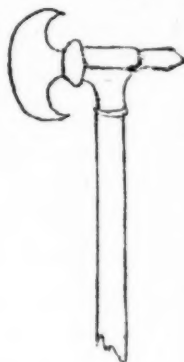
**J**EDBURGH, Roxburghshire, the chief town of the Scottish Border, has given its name to the peculiar 'weapon figured below—the Jeddart axe. It was sometimes called a "Jeddart staff," all weapons attached to long handles, or poles, being classed as "staves."

Thirty steeds, both fleet and wight,  
Stood saddled in stable day and night,  
Barbed with frontlet of steel, I trow,  
And with Jedwood axe at saddle-bow.

"*The Lay of the Last Minstrel*," Canto I, v.

Sir Walter Scott, in his note to the last line, has the following:—"Of a truth," says Froissart, 'the Scottish

cannot boast great skill with the bow, but rather bear axes, with which, in time of need, they give heavy strokes.' The Jedwood axe was a sort of partisan, used



by horsemen, as appears from the arms of Jedburgh, which bear a cavalier mounted, and armed with this weapon. It is also called a Jedwood or Jeddart staff."

Among other scraps I find the following anent the arms just referred to:—"The inhabitants of Jedburgh were a warlike people. Their slogan 'Jeddart's here!' was seldom long silent. At a meeting of the Town Council, March 13, 1680, it was resolved that in place of the unicorn 'the town of Jedburgh

should henceforth have for their armes ane man on horseback, with steel cap and jack, and a Jedburgh staff in his hand."

The accompanying sketch of the axe, copied from Skelton's "Ancient Armour," pl. lxxiii, 6, is explained by the following note:—"A Jedburg axe or Jeddart staff of the period of Henry VIII., found in a river in Scotland. Such weapons were implied by the simple word 'staves,' which included all kinds of arms whose handles were long poles."

C. H. STEPHENSON.

### Ralph Dodds, Alderman of Newcastle.

**O**NE of the best known Newcastle men of the past generation was Alderman Ralph Dodds—probably better known as Raaphy Dodds—who died at his residence in Bentinck Terrace on the 20th October, 1874, at the advanced age of 82 years. During his long and useful public life he had filled almost every honorary office—Councillor, Alderman, Sheriff, Mayor (twice), Magistrate, and Tyne Commissioner.

Ralph was born at Alnwick in 1782. His parents being too poor to give him any education, he gained a little from the parish schoolmaster by doing menial services in return. When still very young, he used to drive a donkey, laden with sacks of coal, from the pits into Alnwick. He was afterwards employed by a plasterer in that town, and, though not serving a regular apprenticeship, he soon became proficient in the trade. As he grew older, he saw that a large town presented a better chance for advancement in life than a little country place, and, accordingly, he left Alnwick for Newcastle, where his first employer was "Tommy

Nicholson," the plasterer. About this time Ravensworth Castle was being built, and the plaster work was done by young Dodds's employer. Ralph was engaged on the job, and he, being a fine-looking young man, attracted the notice of Miss Bell, niece of Lord Ravensworth's steward. This young lady he soon afterwards married, and, as she possessed a small fortune of her own, the young plasterer felt himself justified in commencing business on his own account. From this time he may be said to have started on his long career of success as a tradesman.

Among the earliest of Mr. Dodds's patrons was the late Sir M. W. Ridley, who, on making considerable additions to his mansion at Blagdon, employed Mr. Dodds to do the plaster work. Mr. Dodds's business rapidly increased, especially amongst the county gentry. Thus he was employed by Mr. Brandling, of Gosforth Park; Mr. Cookson, of Meldon; Mr. Cadogan, of Brinkburn; and Mr. Collingwood, of Lilburn Tower. Mr. John Dobson, the eminent architect, always engaged Mr. Dodds to assist him in his great undertakings. When the corner-stone of Beaufront Castle, near Corbridge, was laid by the late Mr. Cuthbert, about fifty years ago, Billy Purvis, who had his booth at Hexham at the time, walked over, with the principal members of his company, to witness the ceremony. Billy essayed to address the company, and, of course, succeeded in causing great merriment. There was a considerable number of workmen employed on the castle, and all were presented by Mr. Cuthbert with free tickets for Billy's show—a treat which Mr. Dobson repeated the following week.

Mr. Dodds was first elected a town councillor in 1840, sheriff in 1850, an alderman in 1852, and mayor in 1853. When he entered upon the mayoralty, the town was just recovering from the epidemic of cholera, which for months had committed such awful havoc amongst the inhabitants. Three commissioners were appointed by the Crown to inquire into the causes of the visitation, and the town was represented by the Mayor and Town Clerk (Mr. John Clayton). Near the end of Mr. Dodds's mayoralty occurred the terrible explosion at Gateshead, which proved so disastrous to both boroughs. At the meeting called for the relief of the sufferers, the Mayor stated that he had sent out invitations for a ball, but this he intended to postpone, and appropriate the money to the explosion fund. A sum of £600 was subscribed in a day or two; her Majesty contributed another £100; and when the fund closed it had reached the large sum of £10,977.

Mr. Dodds was chairman of the Town Improvement Committee for eighteen years, and exhibited remarkable tact, perseverance, and energy in that position. In 1865 he was again chosen Mayor, and many notable events occurred during his term of office. Amongst others, Barge Day was celebrated; Lord Ravensworth laid the foundation stone of the Grammar School; and the Mayor, in conjunction with Alderman Hedley, officiated

at a similar ceremony at Coxlodge Asylum. Very few public men have taken more interest in the welfare of Newcastle, and in preserving in it all that was worthy of preservation. After the great fire at the Central Exchange, the dome at the Market Street corner was much damaged, and its removal was proposed. Mr. Dodds, however, resolved that this should not be, and, as usual, carried his point; and it was thus mainly through his exertions that this fine building was restored in its integrity. His efforts to obtain funds for the repair of St. Nicholas' steeple will still be remembered, and when the renovation of the old edifice was set about he was unanimously elected chairman of the Restoration Committee.

There was never a more active and painstaking magistrate on the bench than Ralph Dodds, although even in court his rather rough humour and fondness for joking accompanied him. Many are the stories told of him as a magistrate; but he always tried, if possible, to avoid punishment for a trivial offence or to let a poor silly drunkard go without a fine. "Gan hyem, man," he would say, "get a beefsteak; and it'll de ye mair good than the clarty drink!" On one occasion he asked a trembling penitent, "Where de ye come frae?" "Waaker, sor," was the reply. "Then waak back agyen to Waaker!" A rather affected magistrate was on the bench with Mr. Dodds one morning, when an impudent juvenile was charged with petty theft. "You must," said the magistrate, "go to gaol for three days, and receive six strokes with the birch rod." "Whaat's that, sor?" said the little culprit, pretending not to hear. "Ha! I said you must go—" repeating it all over again. "Aa divvent knaa what ye say, sor," responded the urchin. Here Mr. Dodds got impatient. "Policeman," said he, "take him outside, crack his lug, and set him off." Some young swells on another occasion were charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct. Mr. Dodds was on the bench, and put the usual question—"Well, what hae ye te say for yorselves?" "Only a lark, Mr. Dodds," pleaded the now penitent offenders. "Oh! ay, ay," was the response, "but we hae cages for larks here." One of his own workmen was brought up before him on the usual charge of "drunk and disorderly," and the man was quite pleased to see Ralph on the bench, feeling sure of acquittal. He was mistaken, however, as a fine of five shillings and costs was imposed. The poor fellow was penniless, and was taken down to the cells. The business of the court over, the alderman went below, and, ordering out his penitent workman, paid the fine and costs. Turning to the policeman, "Noo," said he, "kick him oot."

Ralph was often chaffed by those who dared to take that liberty about his adventure with a pig. One day a man drove a pig into the Central Station, and, tying him to a post, left him there. Piggy, of course, sang his usual solo at the top of his voice, and attracted a small crowd, amongst them being Mr. Dodds. That gentleman, thinking to punish the owner for causing this disturbance, took

out his pocket-knife, cut the string, and set the captive free, whereupon the pig wandered away to survey the town at its own sweet will. Next day the man was brought before the worthy magistrate charged with stealing the very pig that had, with Mr. Dodds's assistance, so willingly left the railway station the day before!

Another characteristic anecdote must be told. When Mr. Dodds was presiding over a meeting of the Town Im-



ALD. DODDS

provement Committee, a member was making a rather lengthy speech, and, to strengthen his arguments, was quoting from a recent decision of Baron Martin's. He seemed to have a high opinion of that learned judge, and made frequent reference to his legal opinions. "Nivvor mind aall that," said Ralphy; "this," tapping Mr. Ralph Park Philipson, the Town Clerk, on the shoulder, "this is wor Baron Martin!"

### The Hawfinch, the Bullfinch, and the Goldfinch.

**T**HE hawfinch (*Coccothraustes vulgaris*) is only a casual winter visitant to the Northern Counties. It is a bird of very retiring habits, and it may frequent a district for years without being noticed, except by some argus-eyed ornithologist, who knows when and where to look for it. The bird has a variety of names—as the grosbeak, common grosbeak, black-throated grosbeak, and haw grosbeak.

Mr. Thomas Thompson discovered a nest of the hawfinch on May 29, 1884, at Winlation. Another nest was found in the same month and year at Riding Mill. These

are the first recorded instances of the bird nesting in either of the two Northern Counties.

Though the hawfinch is rather handsomely plumaged, its thick, conical beak and rather stumpy tail give it a



somewhat ungainly appearance, and at no time is it very active in its habits, which are shy and retiring. The male, which slightly resembles the bullfinch in build, is over seven inches in length. Around the base of the beak and the throat is a black patch, as in the common cock sparrow. The neck behind is crossed by a bold band of ash-coloured feathers, pale brown at the sides. The back plumage is a rich chestnut brown, more ruddily tinged towards the root of the short tail above, while the breast is a pale fawn-colour. The wings, which are broad, have a spread of nearly one foot. The greater wing coverts are greyish white, and those next the body yellowish brown; lesser wing coverts blackish brown, some of them tipped with white. The primaries are a rich bluish black, handsomely "shot" and marked with darker and lighter shadings.

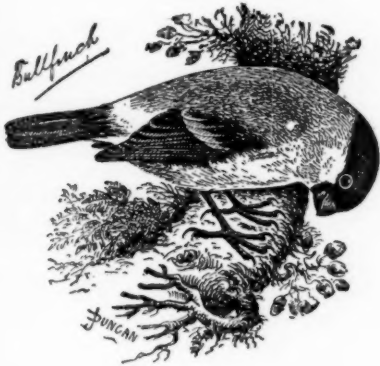
Morris describes the song of the hawfinch as low and pleasant, but the bird does not seem to be able to pitch its note much higher than a twitter. The nest, composed entirely of lichens and fine roots, is frequently placed in a hawthorn or holly tree.

The bullfinch (*Pyrrhula vulgaris*) is, according to Mr. John Hancock, "a constant resident in both counties (Northumberland and Durham), but not very abundant anywhere." "White, pied, and pale rose-coloured varieties," he says, "occasionally occur. Specimens of the two former are in the collection of the late Dr. Charlton, Newcastle, and a fine specimen of the latter is in the Newcastle Museum. When kept in confinement the colour of the bullfinch is liable to be affected by its food: if fed on hempseed, it very soon becomes entirely black." This bird is perhaps more plentiful in the two counties than the goldfinch, and its nest is occasionally found in the wooded districts of the Tyne and Wear. In



the Midland and Southern Counties, it is found nesting in orchards with the goldfinch.

In addition to its most common name, the bullfinch is known as nope, pope, alp, hoop, &c. Its scientific name, *Pyrrhula*, denotes that it is a bird of ruddy plumage. The



flight of the bird is quick and undulated, and capable of being protracted on occasion. It does not fly far when disturbed. The common note of the bird is short, plaintive, and sweet; but with training it can be taught to whistle various tunes with considerable accuracy. Large numbers of German bullfinches are annually imported into this country, and "piping bullfinches"—that is, birds which can whistle a tune or two—fetch high prices.

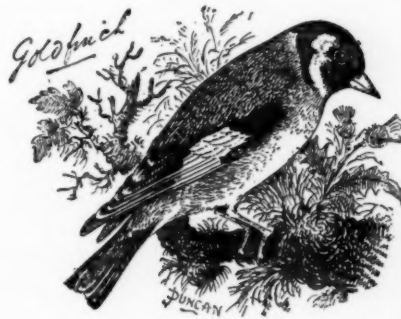
Dr. Brehm says the bullfinch hops over the ground in a somewhat ungainly manner, but is most adroit in its movements upon trees. Sometimes it will rest upon a branch with its body in a horizontal position and its feet stretched out, and at others it will hang head downwards from the twigs. Its long and fleecy feathers are but rarely laid closely down to its sides, thus causing it to seem much larger than it really is. The birds pair about the end of April, and nidification commences about the beginning of May—later in northern localities. The nest is composed externally of small twigs, and lined with fine roots. It is generally placed in a tree, such as a fir, or in the middle of a high bush—often a hawthorn—at a height of four or six feet from the ground. It often builds in shrubberies, sometimes in apple orchards, but seldom in gardens. The birds are supposed to pair for life; and the members of the same family keep together until the ensuing spring.

The male birds—which, however, vary considerably in size—are from six to six and a half inches long; bill very short, thick, and shining black; iris dark brown; head and crown deep glossy blue black; neck on the back and nape bluish grey; chin black; throat and breast a beautiful red; back delicate bluish grey; on the lower part pure white; underneath, the wings are bluish grey; greater

wing coverts black, their ends white, forming a conspicuous bar across the wing; lesser wing coverts delicate bluish grey; primaries brownish black; secondaries brownish black, the outer webs glossed with a bluish tinge; some of them are occasionally found tinged with red; tertiaries brownish black, tinged also with blue. The tail, which is glossy blue black, consists of twelve feathers; underneath it is greyish black; upper tail coverts glossy blue black; under tail coverts white. The female is about an inch shorter than the male.

The goldfinch (*Fringilla carduelis*, Linnæus—*Carduelis elegans*, Yarrell) is the most beautifully plumaged and most musical of the finches, and hence it is a favourite cage bird, being most relentlessly trapped by the bird catchers. In beauty and diversity of plumage it almost rivals the kingfisher. Owing to the enclosure of commons and waste lands all over the country, the goldfinch is by no means so plentiful as it formerly was, as thistles, on the seed of which it mostly feeds, have in many places given place to cereal and root crops. Mr. Hancock, in his Catalogue, observes that the goldfinch "must be considered as a casual visitant in our district (Northumberland and Durham), being met with only occasionally in autumn and winter."

The bird has quite a variety of common names. It is known as the goldie, goldspink, King Harry, thistle-



finch, redcap, proud tail, golden finch, &c. The Scottish naturalist, Macgillivray, though his work is somewhat out of date, calls it the red-fronted thistle-finch; and in France it is termed *chardonnet*, from *chardon* a thistle.

The ordinary note of the bird is most sweet and varied. It commences to sing about the end of March and continues without much interruption till July. The nest is composed externally of grass, moss, lichens, small twigs and roots, or any other handy substance. It is warmly lined inside with wool, hair, feathers, or the down of willows or other shrubs.

The male is five inches in length. Forehead crimson, and over the eyes; head, on the crown and back, black, on the sides white; neck, on the back, black, forming

a semicircle towards the front; nape, buff brown; chin, crimson; throat, white, extending backwards to the back, and succeeded by brownish white; breast, pale fulvous brown and whitish; back, darker buff brown, lighter buff brown lower down. The wings extend to the width of nine inches; greater wing coverts, yellow; lesser wing coverts, black; primaries, black; the inner half yellow on the outer webs, except that of the first, the tips white; the second quill feather is the longest, but only slightly over the first, which is a little longer than the third; tertiaries, with a spot of white at the tip; greater and lesser under wing coverts, white. The tail, which is black and tipped with white, is slightly forked, and rather short; the two outer feathers have a large oval-shaped white spot on the inner web; upper tail coverts, greyish white. Legs and toes, pale dusky brown. The female is rather smaller than the male, and her plumage is of rather more subdued tints.

## Men of Mark Twiſt Tyne and Tweed.

By Richard Welford.

Thomas Dobson, M.A.,

MATHEMATICIAN.

**A**N exception to the rule that "a prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house," is afforded by the career of Thomas Dobson, who, being a native of Hexham, and educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School there, received in after life the highest honour which his fellow-townsmen could bestow—the Head-mastership of the institution wherein he had been a pupil.

Thomas Dobson was born on the 13th October, 1814, and being a precocious child, learning Latin when most other children are still in the nursery, he was sent to the Grammar School at an unusually early age. The Head-master at that time was the Rev. Thomas Scurr, a mathematician of repute, afterwards perpetual curate of Allendale. Under his tuition and that of the succeeding master, the Rev. James Urwin, the boy acquired mathematical and classical knowledge with an ease and freedom that clearly pointed to the vocation of a teacher as his natural and proper calling. Adopting this view, he engaged himself as English master at an educational establishment near Calais. That object gained, he became mathematical tutor in Mr. Thorogood's academy at Totteridge, near London. From thence he proceeded, in 1847, to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he won several scholarships, was seventeenth wrangler in 1849, and afterwards took his degree of M.A. There he would probably have remained had not the

failure of a bank compelled him to seek remunerative employment.

A vacancy occurred about this time in the High School of Hobart Town, Tasmania. Mr. Dobson obtained the appointment, and in 1850 set sail for the antipodes. The outlook was promising till the discovery of gold in Australia depopulated the colony. Pupils were withdrawn from their studies to tend the flocks which gold-seeking shepherds had deserted, and school keeping became a thankless and a profitless business. Mr. Dobson struggled for some time against adverse circumstances, and finally resigned his post. Having taken a twelve months' holiday, travelling through New Zealand, he went to New South Wales, and in the beginning of 1855 shipped at Sydney for England.



Thomas Dobson M.A.

The acquirements of the Hexham emigrant were not unknown at the great Naval School of Greenwich Hospital. Edward Riddle, the famous Northumbrian master of that institution, had but recently resigned his command into the hands of his son John Riddle when Mr. Dobson returned from Australia, and both father and son were keeping themselves in touch with all the best mathematical talent of their time. To that celebrated resort of North-Countrymen Mr. Dobson naturally directed his steps, and entering into a public competition won an assistant mastership in the school, upon the duties of which he shortly afterwards entered. There he remained till he was appointed Head-master of the school frigate Conway, stationed in the Mersey. While discharging his duties in the Mersey, the event occurred which is recorded in the opening lines of this article. The chief post in the Grammar School of his

boyhood became vacant, and the governors elected him to fill it. For thirteen years he presided over the destinies of Hexham Grammar School, and assisted in many ways beside to promote the intellectual activities of his birthplace. In 1876 he received the appointment of Head-master of the Marine School at South Shields, founded by the benevolent Dr. Winterbottom, and in that capacity laboured till his sudden death from a paralytic seizure on the 8th of October, 1885.

Mr. Dobson was a contributor to the "Ladies' Diary" from his youth, and was on terms of intimacy with the leading mathematicians of his time—Sir George Airy, Woolhouse, Fenwick, Todhunter, and others. His researches into meteorology were thorough, and he was a pioneer in cyclonology, a subject which was but ill understood when he commenced to investigate it. While at Hexham he gained a prize of £20, given by the Marquis of Tweeddale, President of the Scottish Meteorological Society, for an essay on "Weather Prognostics" and their explanation; and at various meetings of the British Association and other learned bodies he read useful papers on these special subjects. The question of Magnetism in Iron Ships was also one to which he devoted much time and thought, and he invented a machine to illustrate the deviation of the compass in such vessels. His teaching gifts were special and his success in using them remarkable. Both at Hexham and at Shields he prepared youths for the universities, some of whom took high degrees, and many of the lads who passed through his hands as pupils in his various schools are now filling important positions on land and at sea.

Outside of his scholastic work, Mr. Dobson was an active and intelligent worker. Possessing a clear and energetic mind, with a rare capacity for patient labour, he was able to supplement the graver duties of his profession with some of those lighter accomplishments that give to the study of science needful change and recreation. One of these accomplishments was the collection and compilation of local history. Being a genuine Tynesider, he contributed to the local press interesting articles upon historical events in his native valley, some of which, gathered together in 1870, were published for the benefit of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Another of his recreations was angling, with which contemplative occupation he combined sketching and botanising.

The following is a list of the more important contributions which Mr. Dobson made to scientific literature:—

- On the Theory of Co-ordinates.—1845.
- On the Law of Storms, &c.—Royal Society, Tasmania, 1853.
- Australasian Cyclonology—8vo. Hobart Town, 1853.
- On the Relation between Coal Mine Explosions and Cyclones.—Brit. Assoc. Repts., 1855.
- On the Phenomena and Theory of Revolving Storms. (Four Lectures).—Newcastle Lit. and Phil. Society, 1855-1856.
- On the Causes of Great Inundations; The Balaclava Tempest, &c.—Brit. Assoc. Repts., 1856.

On the Changes in the Direction and Length of the Line of Cusps during a Solar Eclipse.—Royal Astr. Soc. Trans., 1857.

On the Hurricanes of the South Pacific Ocean (Three Parts).—Nautical Mag., 1859-60.

On the Relation between Atmospheric Perturbations and Explosions of Fire-damp in Coal Mines.—Liverpool Lit. and Phil. Soc., 1860.

On some Results of the "Royal Charter" Storm.—Liverpool Lit. and Phil. Soc., 1860.

Contributions to Nautical Science.—Liverpool Lit. and Phil. Soc., 1861.

On Explosions in British Coal Mines during 1859.—Brit. Assoc. Repts., 1861.

On a New Method of Investigating the Symmetrical Properties of Plane Triangles.—Brit. Assoc. Repts., 1861.

Contributions to Local History (Early Hist. Hexham; Lives of John Martin, William Hewson, Wm. Tynedale, and the Midfords; Treasure Trove; Hexham Riot; Hexham Monastery, &c.)—Herald Office, Hexham, 1870.

On the Mechanics of Engineering. (Twelve lectures).—Newcastle Lit. and Phil. Soc., 1870-71.

Description of Apparatus (Deviascope) for illustrating the Deviation of the Compass in Iron Ships.—Nautical Mag., 1880.

Description of a Machine to show the Heeling Error of the Compass. Nautical Mag., 1883.

Note on the Correction of Soundings.—Nautical Mag., 1883.

### The Rev. William Dodd, M.A.,

AN ENERGETIC CLERGYMAN.

William Dodd was the third son of the Rev. John Dodd, at one time Vicar of Wigton, and subsequently—from 1826 to 1840—Vicar of Newcastle. Born in Aspatia in 1804, he was educated at St. Bees School, and in due course entered Christ Church College, Cambridge, where he distinguished himself by diligent and faithful study. In the Mathematical Tripos he attained the position of twenty-fifth wrangler, and studied Hebrew and cognate languages with such success that he gained a first-class university scholarship, and won the Hebrew prize for an essay open to the competition of all who had taken the ordinary B.A. degree. Ordained priest by the Bishop of Durham on the 4th of October, 1829, he became curate of Whickham, until, in May, 1834, he was presented by his father to the living of St. Andrew's, Newcastle, vacant by the death of the Rev. Henry Deer Griffith.

When Mr. Griffith died, an earnest effort was made by the leading parishioners of St. Andrew's to secure the living for his curate, the Rev. James Manisty. Vicar Dodd's refusal to comply with this request, and his appointment of his own son to the living, gave great offence—so great indeed that when the new minister entered the pulpit for the first time, the majority of the congregation rose and left the church. In a short time, however, Mr. Dodd's tact and evident sincerity disarmed opposition. The congregation discovered that their clergyman was a man of no ordinary ability, and gradually he gained their confidence. He became the recognised leader in the town of the Oxford movement—better known, perhaps, as Puseyism, or Tractarianism. Among the objects which the Puseyites set themselves to accomplish were the introduction of frequent, short, and hearty services, regular and systematic visitation of

parishioners, the building of new churches in overgrown parishes, and the institution of mission rooms in outlying districts. Animated by these impulses, Mr. Dodd opened St. Andrew's for evening service, started a mission in Brandling Village, and projected the erection of a new church in his wide-spreading parish. It was uphill work, for few persons in Newcastle sympathised with his Ecclesiastical proclivities; but at length, in 1843, he had the satisfaction of seeing the Church of St. Peter in Oxford Street rise from its foundations, and become, under the care of his curate, the Rev. C. A. Raines, the resort of increasing congregations.

In 1849, Mr. Dodd, whose health had been severely strained by his labours, accepted the quiet country living of Chillingham, where he enjoyed a period of comparative repose in the pure air of the Cheviots, away from the clamour and worry of Tyneside. He did not, however, thoroughly regain the health he had sacrificed in Newcastle. On the 8th of May, 1866, while on a visit to Nice, he ceased from his labours, and in the beautiful cemetery upon the hill overlooking the town he was buried.

Mr. Dodd published several sermons, and an interesting book on the schools and education given in Majorca and Minorca—*islands that he visited in search of health*. He was the recipient of two handsome testimonials from his friends in Newcastle—a *salver*, in March, 1840, and a *candelabrum* in September, 1849. At Chillingham, on the high ground opposite the village, facing the road from Chatton to Alnwick, a public drinking fountain of pretty architectural design, topped by a brass cross, has been erected to his memory. At St. Andrew's, Newcastle, the great east window, filled with stained glass by Mr. Dodd's friends and admirers, through whose varied tints the morning sun diffuses mellow light over the sanctuary at which for fifteen years he officiated, forms an appropriate souvenir of his name and his labours, his faith and his works.

### Armorer Donkin,

#### LAWYER AND POLITICAL REFORMER.

He is the most prudent man who takes the world as he finds it; who relishes its comforts, reconciles its crosses, and expects happiness only in superior regions.—*Dr. Cotton.*

Forty years ago the profession of the law in Newcastle numbered among its members several men who were at the head of nearly every movement which had for its object the study of local antiquities, the advancement of useful knowledge, and the extension of political freedom. Not to mention lesser men, there were John Adamson, numismatist, conchologist, and Portuguese scholar; John Trotter Brockett, collector, book-hunter, and glossographer; John Fenwick, local biographer, genealogist, and Sunday school teacher; John Clayton, classical scholar, antiquary, and explorer of Roman remains; Ralph Park Philipson, Whig politician and municipal administrator; Armorer Donkin, the friend of Brougham

and the Hunts, and an earnest political reformer. The achievement of honourable fame in various departments of research and investigation outside of their profession seems to have been characteristic of Newcastle lawyers in the last generation—a feature peculiar to themselves, for it assuredly has not occurred in any other calling amongst us; and peculiar to their time, for one fails to observe it existing in the same proportion among their successors.

Armorer Donkin was the son of a timber merchant; a freeman of Newcastle, carrying on business, and living, at North Shields. From the tombstone of the family in the Priory churchyard, and the parish registers (kindly inspected by Mr. Horatio A. Adamson, town-clerk of Tynemouth, to whom, for this and many favours, the writer expresses his indebtedness), it appears that Armorer Donkin, senior, was twice married. His first wife Elizabeth died in 1772, and Armorer, junior, was the fruit of the second union. He was baptised at the parish church of Tynemouth on the 27th January, 1779, "son of Mr. Armorer and Mrs. Rachel Donkin of the Low Lights, Raff-Merchant." When he arrived at the proper age, he was articled to Mr. William Harrison, of Dockway Square, North Shields, attorney-at-law and vestry-clerk, and having served his time, he proceeded to London, where he became a clerk with Mr. Meggison, an eminent attorney in Hatton Garden. His abilities being of a superior order, Mr. Meggison, it is said, was desirous of retaining his services, but he had determined within himself that as soon as he had acquired sufficient experience in the metropolis he would return to his native county. His father died in 1798, aged 76, and his mother in 1801, aged 56, and shortly after his mother's decease he came back to the North, and commenced professional life on his own account in Newcastle. Business at first was not too plentiful, and having abundant leisure he entered upon a course of self-improvement in literature and science which in after years proved of great value to him. As one means to that end he joined the Literary and Philosophical Society, where the Rev. Wm. Turner was preparing to start upon that long course of lecturing which lasted without a break for thirty years. Into the educational work of that institution he entered with ardour, and was elected, in 1809, one of the junior secretaries—an office which he held till increasing business in his profession obliged him, five years later, to resign. At the Lit. and Phil. he formed numerous friendships and made acquaintance with members of the principal families in the town. Among the more intimate of the friends thus acquired was Mr. William Armstrong, corn merchant, a warm supporter of the institution, and a man of scholarly acquirements. Mr. Armstrong had come to Newcastle a comparative stranger from Cumberland, and was making his way to fortune; Mr. Donkin, with the aid of a partner, Mr. G. W. Stable, was



working in the same direction. Their tastes were similar; their political views harmonised; their aims were practically identical, and they became as brothers. When Mr. Armstrong's son, William George, arrived at the proper age to be trained for the battle of life, he was articled to Messrs. Donkin and Stable to learn the profession of an attorney. How this young man served out his time, became a partner in the firm, and left it to become an engineer; how he rose to be a great inventor, a benefactor to his native town, and, finally, to be ennobled by the title of Lord Armstrong, are matters of common knowledge.

Although when he started upon his professional career in the town Mr. Donkin was so much a stranger that, to use his own expression, he "hardly knew one person to speak to on Newcastle streets," his talents for business



*Thomas Donkin*

and unwearied application to their development soon won public confidence. In 1824, we find him acting with his friend Mr. Armstrong as a member of a committee appointed to inquire whether a railway or a canal was the most desirable means of effecting communication between Newcastle and Carlisle; in 1826 assisting to found the Newcastle and Gateshead Law Society, of which four years afterwards he became the President; in 1829 accepting the post of director of the Newcastle New Gas Company; and, later on, drawing up the prospectus of the Brandling Junction Railway.

Upon his return to the North, Mr. Donkin had taken up his freedom of the town and of the Hostmen's Company, and about the time that Municipal Reform became imminent, he was elected a member of the Common Council. Entering the Corporation as a

supporter of the Reform movement, he was one of the twelve old members who were returned by the extended electorate, in 1836, to the new Town Council. At the first meeting of the reformed body he had the honour of being appointed an alderman.

As in municipal affairs, so in politics, Mr. Donkin was one of the party of progress. He was not, however, like Doubleday, Fife, or Attwood, an advanced reformer. His votes at Parliamentary elections show that he did not support men with Radical tendencies, for he voted against both Attwood and Aytoun, when they contested Newcastle. He was, in fact, like his friend Mr. Armstrong, a Liberal of the Whig school, with sympathies that undoubtedly broadened as time went on, but were never extended far in advance of his party.

Shortly before the elections of 1826 Mr. Donkin acquired a small property at Jesmond, by right of which, between the by-election in February and the great struggle of July, he obtained a county vote. Upon that property, which, as opportunity occurred, was extended into a spacious domain, he erected the mansion known to the present generation as Jesmond Park. In this suburban retreat he spent much of his time, occupying himself in the intervals of business with literary recreations, the formation of a library, and the reception of his friends. Being a bachelor, he was able to exercise a generous hospitality without derangement of his domestic affairs, and the entertainments which he gave to members of his social circle every Saturday were appreciated far and wide. Few strangers of eminence came to Newcastle without partaking of the hospitalities of Jesmond Park. Among his chosen friends were Baily the sculptor, Ramsay the painter, and that delightful essayist, Leigh Hunt. It is said that he contributed occasionally to Hunt's *London Journal*; it is certain that he contributed liberally to the editor's somewhat slender resources. In one of his *Journal* articles Hunt refers to invitations that it was not possible for him to accept, instancing a pressing call from Mr. Donkin (whose identity he veils under the initials "A. D."), and describing him as "one of the men we love best in the world." To him the versatile journalist dedicated a play, the "Legend of Florence" (published in 1840, and acted with some success at Covent Garden), stating that to his practical wisdom and generosity he was indebted for health and leisure to indulge in its composition. In the "Correspondence of Leigh Hunt," edited by his son, Thornton Hunt, the owner of Jesmond Park is noted as one of the friends who were "most generous in the manner, as well as the amount, of their sacrifices"; and a letter of his to the departed author is quoted in which appears "a formal debtor and creditor account, setting off against a sum of money advanced at a pinch, the same sum—By value received in full, per pleasure in reading Leigh Hunt's *London Journal*." All this, and much more, we read in a charming little book—

"Characteristics of Leigh Hunt"—from the facile pen of "Launcelot Cross," the *nom de plume* of our townsman Frank Carr.

Alderman Donkin retired from the active pursuit of his profession in 1847, and died on the 14th of October, 1851. A writer in the *Newcastle Chronicle* pays the following tribute to his memory:—

For thirty years he stood at the very head of his profession, conducting a large and varied practice; and his clients were not confined to this town and neighbourhood alone, but many of the principal families in the neighbouring counties confided their properties and their interests to his skill and protection. In personal appearance he was stout, and in his latter years somewhat corpulent. His head and face, though not handsome, were cast in a noble and massive mould; and a look of peculiar intelligence, mingled with good humour, and great self-possession, generally lighted up his countenance. A hearty joyousness, and desire to communicate the pleasure he felt, were the prevailing features of his address. The beautifully chiselled bust of him by Baily, the Royal Academician, and the admirable portrait, painted by his old friend Ramsay, will long preserve amongst those who knew him the remembrance of what he once was; but neither marble nor canvas can delineate that kindness of heart and inimitable sauvoy of manner for which he was singularly remarkable.

In the shaded enclosure known as the "East Mound" of Jesmond Cemetery, side by side, and identical in form, rise two granite monuments. Beneath one of them repose the remains of Alderman Donkin; beneath the other, placed there barely six years later, lie those of his friend and associate, Alderman Armstrong, father of Lord Armstrong.

### Matthew Duane,

CONVEYANCER AND ANTIQUARY.

Local annalists are singularly reticent about the life and labours of the eminent lawyer and accomplished antiquary who bore the name of Matthew Duane. All that can be gathered concerning his career from the voluminous resources of local history may be briefly summed up in a statement that he was a member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, a Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, a trustee of the British Museum, and a most successful collector of rare coins and medals; that he married a Newcastle lady—Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Dawson, and granddaughter of Henry Peareth; that he had his chambers in the old home of the Peareths in Pilgrim Street (now the offices of the Newcastle Board of Guardians); and that he was buried in St. Nicholas' Church.

From other sources, however, we obtain an insight into the character and pursuits of this celebrated man. We learn that he was a polite scholar, a man of high culture, of acknowledged taste in painting and music, of European reputation as a medallist, and one of the most eminent conveyancers of his time. His collection of coins and medals was unequalled, being especially rich and valuable in specimens from Syria, Macedonia, and Phœnicia. To art and artists he was a most liberal patron. A number of his rarest coins he caused to be

engraved by Bartolozzi, and he also paid for several engravings of drawings by Giles Hussey, of whose work he was an ardent admirer. One of his friends, Louis Dutens, the eccentric rector of Eledon, compiled an elaborate catalogue of his treasures, and wrote a quarto volume, which ran into a second edition, about his Phœnician medals.

In his practice as a conveyancer, Mr. Duane occupied a high position. He supplied the article "Common" for one of the editions of Matthew Bacon's "Abridgment of the Law," and edited "Reports of several cases argued and adjudged in the Court of King's Bench at Westminster, by John Fitzgibbon." Lord Eldon was indebted to him for the opportunity of studying conveyancing free of charge when, poor and unknown, he was preparing for



the bar. Writing to his brother Henry at Newcastle, in December, 1775, he states that his prospects of success had been greatly improved by Mr. Duane's generosity. Later in life his lordship expressed himself in equally complimentary terms respecting his old friend and tutor:—"I was for six months in the office of Mr. Duane, the conveyancer. He was a Roman Catholic—a most worthy and excellent man. The knowledge I acquired of conveyancing in his office was of infinite service to me during a long life in the Court of Chancery."

Lord Eldon was only one of many persons who owed acknowledgment to Mr. Duane for valuable services rendered during critical periods of their lives. James Macpherson, the historian, states that when he was busy with one of his books ("Original Papers, containing the Secret History of Great Britain from 1688 to 1714") the great conveyancer discovered and purchased for him

ten quarto volumes of papers relating to the House of Brunswick, which were of inestimable value. Thomas Bedingfield, one of the minor local poets, owed to Mr. Duane an introduction to London practice as a conveyancer and chamber counsel when his religious principles (Roman Catholic) deprived him of the privilege of the English bar. No trouble was too great, no labour too long when Mr. Duane had the opportunity of serving a friend. Dr. Ducarel, writing on the 19th May, 1767, to M. Grente de Grecourt, at Rouen, in reply to some inquiries respecting judicial procedure in England, names him as the one man in the country capable and willing to impart the desired information. To Mr. Duane, also, Samuel Pegge, A.M., publishing in 1766 an essay on the coins of Cunobelin, addressed a special dissertation "On the Seat of the Coritani."

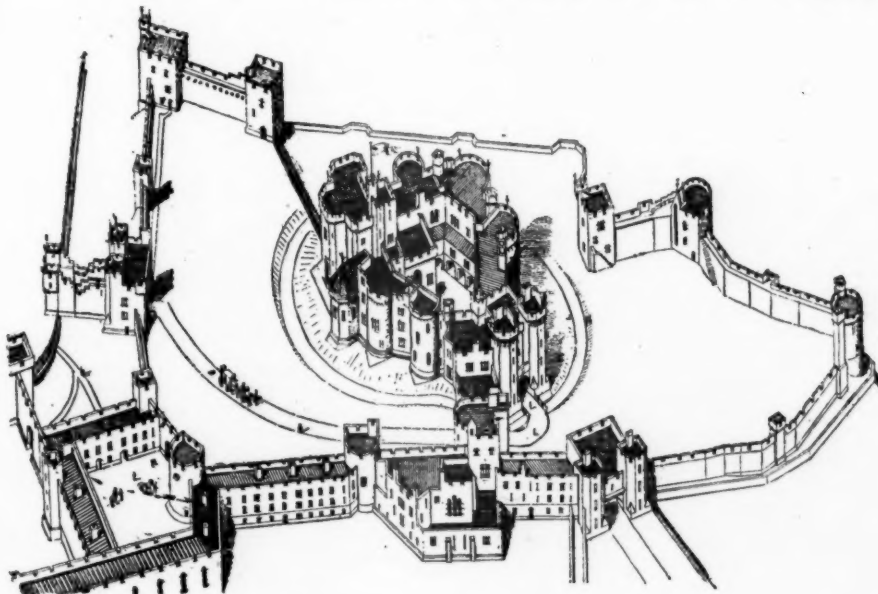
How much of his time Mr. Duane spent at his chambers in Newcastle, and how much of it in London, cannot be ascertained. He does not appear to have taken much interest in the public life of Tyneside, but that may be accounted for by the exacting nature of his profession and the absorbing occupations of his leisure. That he was partial to Newcastle seems probable from the fact that he purchased landed estate in the neighbourhood (262 acres at Wideopen, and 283 acres at Dinnington), and that he desired to be buried in St. Nicholas' Church, among his neighbours and his wife's kindred. To that great place of sepulture he was borne in February, 1785, having died suddenly a few days before in London, from a stroke of paralysis. In the south aisle of the church, on an entablature

crowned by a female figure leaning upon a funeral urn, visitors may read an affectionate tribute to his memory.

After his death, Mr. Duane's collection of coins and medals, &c., were sold by auction. He had parted with his cabinet of Syriac coins some time before to Dr. Hunter, who bequeathed them to the University of Glasgow. The fine series of plates engraved by Bartolozzi were purchased by Richard Gough, the historian and antiquary, who issued them to the public, in 1804, under the title of "Coins of the Seleucidæ, Kings of Syria; from the Establishment of their Reign under Seleucus Nicator, to the Determination of it under Antiochus Asiaticus: With Historical Memoirs of each Reign. Illustrated with twenty-four Plates of Coins from the Cabinet of the late Matthew Duane, F.R. and A.S., engraved by Bartolozzi." The principal part of his fortune, which was considerable, he settled upon his nephew, Michael Bray, also of Lincoln's Inn, subject to the jointure of his widow, who survived till the 11th of April, 1799.

### Alnwick Castle.

**I**N the same way as the stirring though mournful cadences of Chevy Chase ever recur to the ear of North-Country folks with strange and strong appeal, every particular concerning the great stronghold of the ancient Percies on the south bank of the Alne, must have a special charm for us all; and although a few jottings have been given



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF ALNWK CASTLE, BY F. R. WILSON.

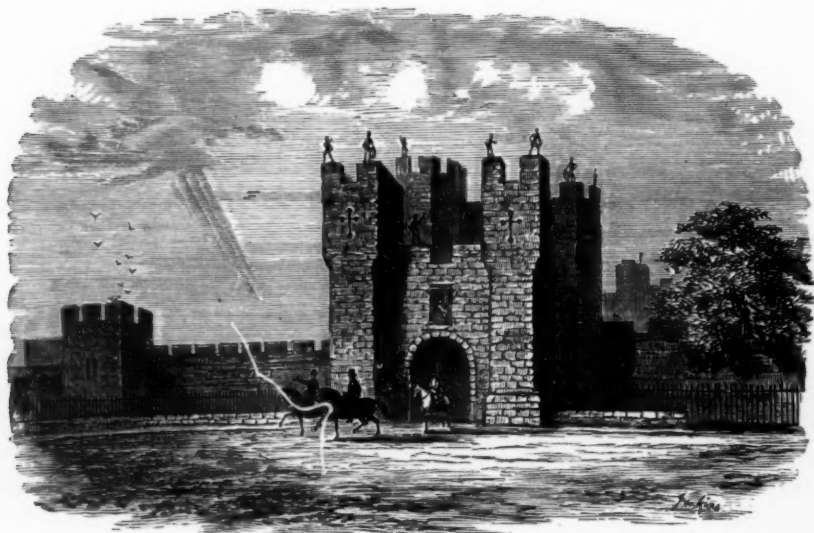
concerning it from time to time in these pages, it is with pleasure an opportunity is now taken to survey the stately pile under more favourable circumstances.

A glance at the bird's-eye view of the Castle, for which we are indebted to the courtesy of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, will show that it consists of a mighty Keep formed by an irregular ring of towers, which adjoin each other and surround an inner court-yard: which Keep is placed almost in the centre of a wide and large enclosure encompassed by a curtain-wall, strengthened at intervals with towers and garrets. This vast area is divided into two portions by buildings which connect the Keep with offices and business departments beyond the eastern portion of the curtain-wall, or behind it; and there is, moreover, beyond the ancient walls, southwards, a large space occupied as a stable yard, with divisions containing a riding school and other conveniences. The ancient curtain-wall has two strong entrances. The first is the noble Barbican; the second is the Warder's Tower, or garden gateway, sometimes, too, called the Lion Gate House, by which access is given to and from the grounds and gardens; and there is, besides, a small sallyport opening out of the Postern Tower on to the green slope between the Castle and the river. Within the curtain-wall there are, also, two strong gateways to pass before the inner courtyard can be entered, the first being the Middle Gate House in the line of buildings connecting the Keep with the rooms and offices behind and along the wall above-mentioned, and the second, defended by two polygonal towers, at the entrance to this innermost space, which was once further guarded by a moat and draw-bridge. Bearing this contour in view, the strength of

the building as a fortress in the days of old will be perceived. The stones of the fabric give incontrovertible evidence that this was the original plan of the Castle as built by Eustace Fitz-John, in what is called, architecturally, the Norman period, and maintained and strengthened by Henry de Percy on his acquisition of the estate from Anthony Bek, in the third year of the reign of Edward the Second.

On approaching the Castle, the visitor's attention will be drawn to the stone figures of warriors on the Barbican and towers. These are life-sized, and are represented as hurling stones down on assailants, and in other ways resisting an attack. Two of the figures on the Octagon Tower are represented in the accompanying engraving. They were probably intended to confuse besiegers as to the number of the garrison; and that they, doubtless, had this effect was apparent during the progress of the great works commenced in 1854, when it was, occasionally, as in the dusk, for instance, difficult to distinguish them from living figures at the same elevation.

The Barbican is of great interest. It is about fifty-five feet in length and thirty-two in width. On its front, over the archway, is a panel charged with the Percy lion, below which is the Percy motto, "Esperance." It is boldly thrown out beyond the walls, and consists of an advanced court surrounded by battlemented walls wide enough to be manned, with two turrets at the western end and two towers at the inner or eastern end. There are seven of the figures mentioned upon it. (An eighth was blown down a short time ago.) In the days of old, an enemy would be deterred by outworks from approaching it so easily as we do now, and, probably, by a moat as well. Should a besieger have



ALNWICK CASTLE: THE BARBICAN.



succeeded in crossing the drawbridge and entering the court, he would have found himself between the portcullises in a trap, in which he could have been assailed on all sides from above with ropes of lighted flax, hot

lead, stones, or such other means of defence as were in use. On passing through the Barbican now it is impossible not to be impressed with its sombreness and gloomy grandeur.

All the more charming, however, is the first full sight of the noble Keep on emerging from it upon the enclosure or outer bailey. The grey and grand pile, not so wind-worn and wind-bleached as the masonry of the surrounding curtain-walls and towers, has an aspect of strength, repose, and endurance that is alto-

gether majestic. Its setting of bright green grass, and its surroundings of towers, garrets, embrasured parapets, and indications of the contrivances in vogue in old times, such as bolt-holes for shutters from merlon to merlon,

cross-bow slits, arrow slits, and the old stone steps to the tops of the walls, are full of attraction for us. We can only gaze upon the picturesque scene of departed chivalry and military prowess with admiration. Of all the towers on the walls, perhaps the Constable's Tower, with its three entrances, one on each stage, its cusped windows, corbelled projection, the gabled turret of its newel staircase, leading to the roof, and outer stone stair from the ground to the middle storey, in which are kept the arms and accoutrements of the Percy tenantry, is the most captivating. And of all the garrets the one raised upon the portion of old Norman walling, incorporated with the Plantagenet masonry, is the most interesting. In the view, on page 308, which is, like all the work of the artist, Orlando Jewitt, very carefully drawn, will be noticed the difference in the sizes of the stones used by the Norman and Plantagenet masons.



ALNWICK CASTLE: THE WARDER'S TOWER.

Passing under the middle gateway the visitor sees before him the inner portion of the area encompassed by the Castle walls. Round a green grassy court passes the great wall with its towers at intervals on the one hand, and on the other stand two fine polygonal towers, which guard the gateway through which lies the road into the innermost court-yard, and which form part of the ring of towers of which the Keep is composed. The archway into the court-yard is a portion of the first old Norman castle, very massy and hoary, and very rich with Norman ornamentation on the inner face. In the course of the way through it is a door giving access to the underground dungeon in which prisoners were once secured. The arms on a line of shields ornamenting these polygonal towers show they were a part of the extensive works carried out by Henry de Percy on his acquisition of the Norman structure, for the purpose of strengthening it. Their details are shown but dimly in the moonlight view given.

Within the court is the ancient well, of which an illustration, taken from a photograph by Mr. W. N. Strangeways, is lent us by the Society of Antiquaries. And it is here, too, the chief additions made by Algernon, the fourth Duke of Northumberland, are most apparent. Projecting upon piers and corbels is a corridor following the curved line of the Keep, made for the purpose of giving convenient access to the State apartments; and abutting into the court-yards also is a fine double stone-groined porch, large enough to admit of carriages setting down their occupants under cover, both of which are portions of his well-planned improvements. The leading

feature, however, of this nobleman's additions is the portion of the Keep known as the Prudhoe Tower. Old prints show us the old sky-line of the Castle was low and level. The Prudhoe Tower was designed to break this low level line in a masterly manner, and it now rises in a central mass to an altitude of ninety-eight feet, with an effect that is extremely fine from whatever point of view it is seen. The sketch given, showing the Castle from the river, affords a fair realization of its "pride of height."

Before mentioning any details of the arrangements in the interior of the Keep, attention may be drawn to the view on page 310 of the saloon in the last century, which is reduced from a drawing made by Charlotte Florentia, Duchess of Northumberland, and for which we are also indebted to the Society of Antiquaries. It will give sufficient realization of the style of decoration removed by Duke Algernon in the course of the changes effected in his ancestral home. It will be perceived that the ceiling has somewhat the same effect as that of King Henry the Seventh's Chapel in Westminster Abbey; but, instead of being constructed and carved in stone like that masterpiece of Tudor splendour, it was made of light, frail plaster-work. When first completed, judging from the correspondence of the day, it was considered as elegant as similar work carried out at Strawberry Hill by Horace Walpole. The fashion that led to admiration for this kind of ornamentation, however, passed away in due time; and the great inconvenience of having to pass through one room to enter another calling imperatively for alterations, it

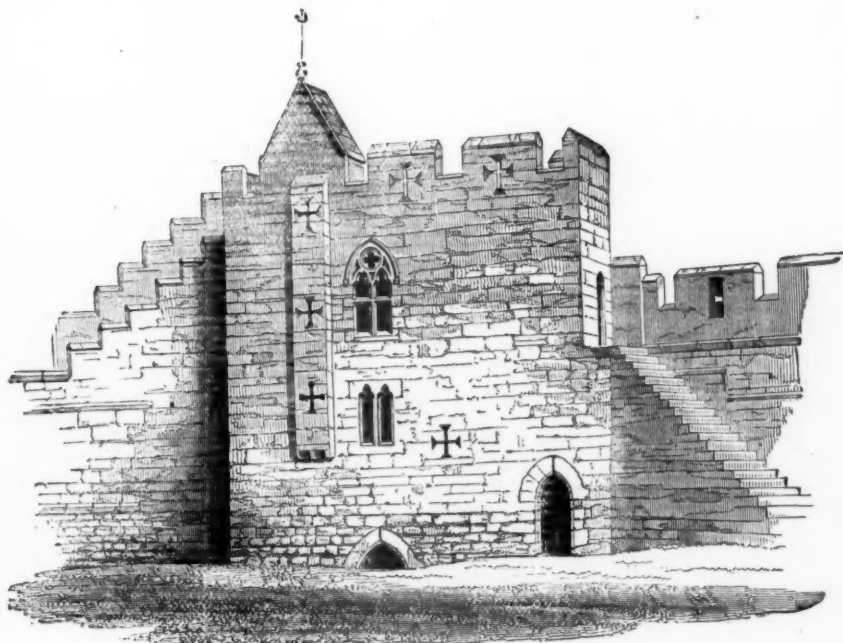


ALNWICK CASTLE: THE KEEP.

was resolved, after much consideration and many consultations with authorities of weight, to re-model the interior, and substitute for these fragile adornments the artistic magnificence of Italian art in the Cinque-Cento period. There were, as many readers will remember, conflicting opinions expressed in the art-world as to the propriety of treating the Border fortress of the ancient Percies in the same way as Italian princes decorated their palaces, but in the end the duke carried out his resolution on a kingly scale.

Starting with the determination that simplicity should reign on the threshold, and richness gradually increase till it culminated in the state apartments and the boudoir of the Duchess, the walls of the entrance hall were made of plain masonry; those of an inner hall somewhat richer, being panelled; and those of the grand staircase still more so, being lined with choice marbles and granite. The ceilings were also equally gradually enriched. Ascending the staircase, each step of which is twelve feet long, and the landing stone twelve feet square (the feat of conveying this stone from Rothbury will be long remembered), a vestibule about thirty feet square is entered, which is paved with Venetian mosaic work, and decorated with a frieze painted by Herr Gotzenberg, with incidents from the poem of Chevy Chase. One side of it consists of an open arcade looking down upon the sumptuous staircase. From this vestibule depart corridors giving access to private apartments, and to the

chapel, and from it also an ante-room opens into the suite of state apartments. In these magnificent chambers all that art has to deal with—colour, form, and richness and fitness of materials—is dealt with in a superb manner. Whilst the mellowed hues employed are the same throughout them all, library, saloon, drawing-room and dining-room, variety is gained by predominating a different one over the rest in each apartment except in the matter of the carved work in the dining-room, which is left in the natural tint of the woods employed, pine-wood, cedar, and walnut. The chimney-pieces were wrought by Signori Nucci, Strazza and Taccalozzi, in Rome; the friezes painted by Signor Mantovani, who journeyed from Rome for the purpose; the ceilings carved by Signor Bulletti, accredited by Cardinal Antonelli as the best carver in Italy, assisted by a staff of about twenty-five carvers, under the superintendence of Mr. John Brown; the medallions of Duke Algernon and Duchess Eleanor, sculptured by Signor Macdonald in Rome; and the whole scheme was arranged by the lamented Signor Montiroli, and approved by the great Italian antiquary, the Commendatore Canina—artists not likely to be forgotten. And underlying all the artistic sumptuousness of the choice woods, the Bolognese damask hangings, the rich Indian carpets, the costly furniture, the delicate combinations of gold and colours, all the Cinque-Cento associations, and the Italian atmosphere created by the presence of the works of some of the most



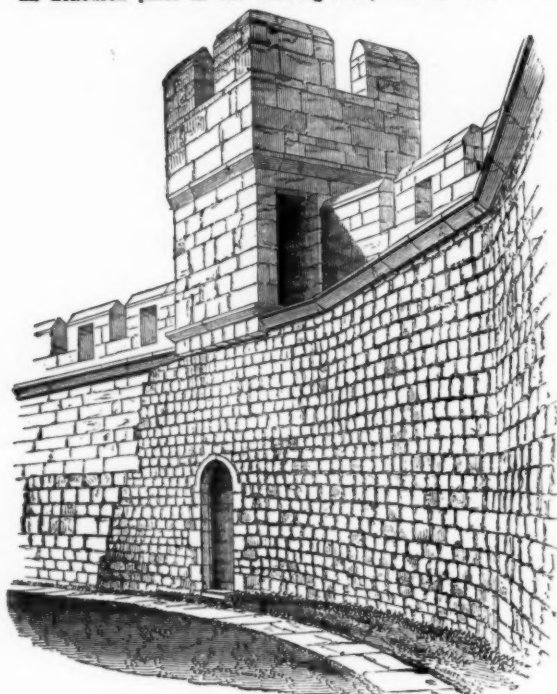
ALNWICK CASTLE: THE CONSTABLE'S TOWER.

famous of the old Italian masters (for Titian's work has an honoured place in the drawing-room, and there is

aspect of the ancient portions of the fabric, as far as may be. In the interior the walls are lined with Italian work in *pietra dura*. There is a gallery in it on a level with the state apartments for the occupation of the ducal family and guests; and it is seated on the ground floor for the use of the household.

The kitchen must be mentioned. It is ribbed, and groined in stone, and has a lofty "lantern" after the mediæval manner. Notwithstanding its antique character, it is furnished with every modern appliance, such as a hydraulic roasting jack and hydraulic lifts. It is also provided with every requisite in the way of larders, scullery, pantry, butteries, an office for the *chef de cuisine*, marble alabs for coolness, hot tables for heat, vast ovens, and streams of running water, for the proper perfection of banquets. Below the kitchen and its adjuncts is a vast vaulted receptacle for coals, as well as boilers, gas-meters, and hydraulic engines. It was characteristic of Duke Algernon to command that the first banquet prepared in these kitchens should be for the regalement of the 600 workmen who had assisted in the great works.

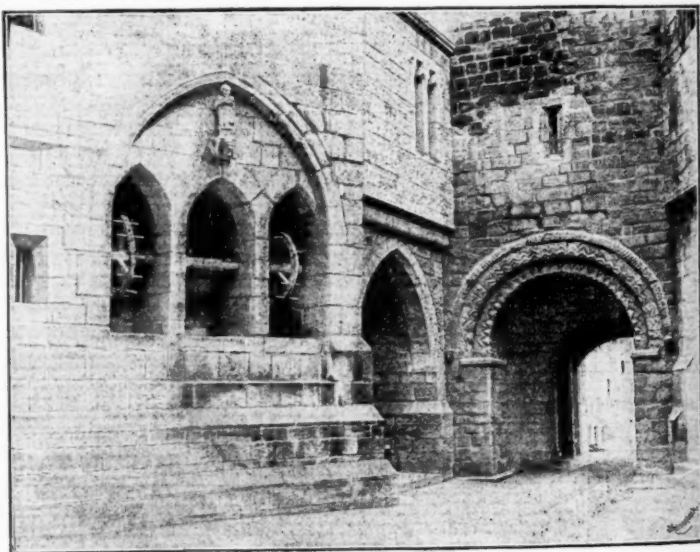
Altogether, there are about 400 apartments in the Castle. In the stable courts (the stables, with their bright order and cleanliness, are a sight apart) are many chambers for coachmen, grooms, and stable-men, and a large coach-house with an open-timbered roof, which also serves as a guest-hall upon occasions. There is, besides, a laundry replete with every convenience. Over and above all



ALNWICK CASTLE: GARRET AND FRAGMENT OF NORMAN MASONRY.

work from the hands of Giotto, Giorgione, Guido, Sebastiano del Piombi, Bellini, Caracci, Correggio, Poussin, Perugino, Raffaello, and Claude Loraine, also, in these apartments), are the old belongings of the ancient Percies, the solid stalwart masonry of their vaulted cellars, their traditions, and the memory of their valour and piety.

The chapel is about forty-six feet long. Here the feeling in favour of English architecture for ecclesiastical purposes has prevailed. It is lighted by five narrow lancet windows, and covered with a high-pitched roof, and altogether, on the exterior, made to harmonize with the rest of the work of Mr. Salvin, the architect of the structural portion of the restorations, and with the



ALNWICK CASTLE: THE WELL.



all that is required for a residence on so large a scale, such as ale and wine cellars, ice-house, a confectionery, servants' hall, steward's rooms, housekeeper's room, still room, plate room, and all that is requisite for the conduct of the business of the vast estate, such as offices for the commissioner, accountants, clerks, bailiffs, and clerk of works, there are various museums. These occupy some of the towers in the length of circumvallation. One is a fine Egyptian museum, containing relics that were for the most part collected by Duke Algernon in Egypt. Another, in the Sallyport Tower, consists of a collection of British, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and mediæval antiquities. The name of the Record Tower indicates its contents. And a geological collection was gathered together by the late Duchess Charlotte Florentia in the Abbot's Tower.

Taking a farewell look in the outer bailey at the silver-grey masonry, the grassy spaces fringing the paved paths and roads, the embattled walls, the cavernous gateways, the proud height of the Prudhoe Tower, we see the curious blending of antiquity with modern contrivances strikingly apparent in the contact of the Percy pennoncelle with the revolving wind-gauge that testifies to the velocity of the wind, and in connection with an anemometer records its pressure for reference in the luxurious library.

F. R. WILSON.

## An American Poem on Alnwick Castle.

**F**ITZ-GREENE HALLECK, an American poet of considerable repute in his own country, is the author of the following half-heroic, half-humorous verses on Alnwick Castle, which were written in October, 1822:—

Home of the Percy's high-born race,  
Home of their beautiful and brave,  
Alike their birth and burial place,  
Their cradle, and their grave!  
Still sternly o'er the castle gate  
Their house's Lion stands in state,  
As in his proud departed hours;  
And warriors frown in stone on high,  
And feudal banners "flout the sky"  
Above his princely towers.

A gentle hill its side inclines,  
Lovely in England's fadeless green,  
To meet the quiet stream which winds  
Through this romantic scene,  
As silently and sweetly still,  
As when, at evening, on that hill,  
While summer's wind blew soft and low,  
Seated by gallant Hotspur's side  
His Katherine was a happy bride,  
A thousand years ago.

Gaze on the Abbey's ruin'd pile;  
Does not the succouring ivy, keeping  
Her watch around it, seem to smile,  
As o'er a loved one sleeping?  
One solitary turret gray  
Still tells, in melancholy glory,



ALNWK CASTLE FROM THE RIVER ALN.

The legend of the Cheviot day,  
The Percy's proudest Border story,  
That day its roof was triumph's arch;  
Then rang, from aisle to pictured dome,  
The light step of the soldier's march,  
The music of the trump and drum;  
And babe, and sire, the old, the young,  
And the monk's hymn, and minstrel's song,  
And woman's pure kiss, sweet and long,  
Welcomed her warrior home.

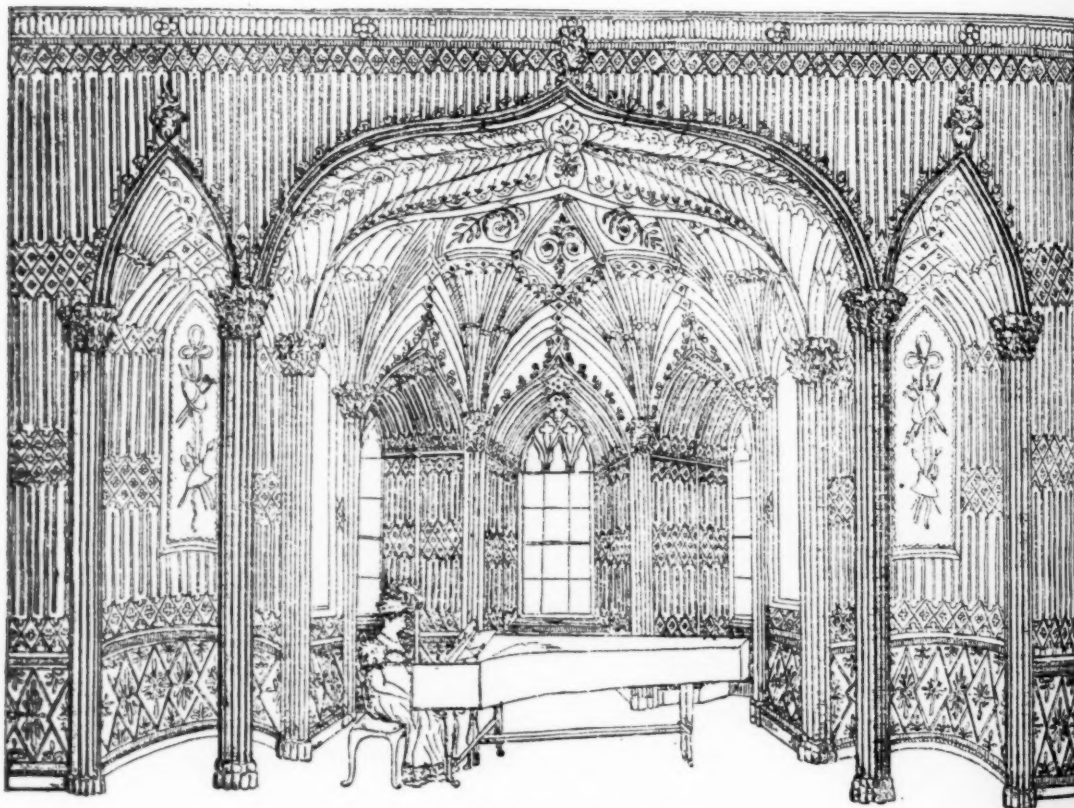
Wild roses by the Abbey towers  
Are gay in their young bud and bloom;  
They were born of a race of funeral flowers  
That garlanded, in long gone hours,  
A Templar's knightly tomb.  
He died, the sword in his mailed hand,  
On the holiest spot of the Blessed Land,  
Where the Cross was damped with his dying breath;  
Where blood ran free as festal wine,  
And the sainted air of Palestine  
Was thick with the darts of death.

Wise with the lore of centuries,  
What tales, if there be "tongues in trees,"  
Those giant oaks could tell,  
Of beings born and buried here,  
Tales of the peasant and the peer,  
Tales of the bridal and the bier,  
The welcome and farewell,  
Since on their boughs the startled bird  
First, in her twilight slumbers, heard  
The Norman's curfew bell.

I wandered through the lofty halls  
Trod by the Percy of old fame,  
And traced upon the chapel walls  
Each high, historic name.  
From him who once his standard set  
Where now, o'er mosque and minaret,  
Glitter the Sultan's crescent moons;  
To him who, when a younger son,  
Fought for King George at Lexington,  
A Major of Dragoons.

That last half stanza—it has dashed  
From my warm lip the sparkling cup;  
The light that o'er my eyebeam flashed,  
The power that bore my spirit up  
Above this bank note world, is gone;  
And Alnwick's but a market town,  
And this, alas! its market day,  
And beasts and Borderers throng the way;  
Oxen and bleating lambs in lots,  
Northumbrian boers, and plaided Scots,  
Men in the coal and cattle line;  
From Teviot's bard and hero land,  
From royal Berwick's beach of sand,  
From Wooler, Morpeth, Hexham, and  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

These are not the romantic times  
So beautiful in Spenser's rhymes,  
So dazzling to the dreaming boy.  
Ours are the days of fact, not fable,  
Of Knights, but not of the Round Table,  
Of Bailie Jarvie, not Rob Roy;



ALNWICK CASTLE : THE SALOON.

'Tis what our President, Munro,  
Has called "the era of good feeling."  
The Highlander, the bitterest foe  
To modern laws, has felt their blow,  
Consented to be taxed, and vote,  
And put on pantaloons and coat,  
And leave off cattle stealing.

Lord Stafford mines for coal and salt,  
The Duke of Norfolk deals in malt,  
The Douglas in red herrings;  
And noble name, and cultured land,  
Palace, and park, and vassal band  
Are powerless to the notes of hand  
Of Rothschild or the Barings.

The age of bargaining, said Burke,  
Has come; to-day the turbaned Turk  
(Sleep, Richard of the lion heart,  
Sleep on, nor from your ceremonies start)  
Is England's friend and fast ally;

The Moslem tramples on the Greek,  
And on the Cross's altar stone,  
And Christendom looks tamely on,  
And hears the Christian maiden shriek,  
And sees the Christian father die;  
And not a sabre blow is given,  
For Greece and fame, for faith and heaven,  
By Europe's craven chivalry.

You'll ask if yet the Percy lives  
In the armed pomp of feudal state.  
The present representatives  
Of Hotspur and his "gentle Kate"  
Are some half-dozen serving men  
In the drab coat of William Penn;  
A chamber-maid, whose lip and eye,  
And cheek, and brown hair, bright and curling,  
Spoke nature's aristocracy;  
And one, half-groom, half-seneschal,  
Who bowed me through court, bower, and hall,  
From donjon keep to turret wall,  
For ten-and-sixpence sterling.

### Blagdon Gates.

**B**LAGDON HALL, the seat of Sir Matthew White Ridley, now member of Parliament for the Blackpool Division of Lancashire, stands on the west side of the great North Road, about nine miles from Newcastle and five miles from Morpeth. It was built by Matthew Ridley, a Newcastle merchant, in the early part of the eighteenth century. In 1826 and 1830 additions were made and porticos added from designs by Bonomi. The south portico has its intercolumniation closed with a screen of stained glass, beautifully enriched with classical figures by Mr. John Gibson, of Newcastle. The hall contains, together with many valuable pictures, a large collection of marble and bronze statues by J. G. Lough, purchased by the late Sir Matthew White Ridley, who was a patron of the sculptor. The pleasure grounds and gardens are tastefully laid out, and are ornamented with a small lake. (See vol. i., p. 287.) In the grounds is preserved the ancient Cale Cross, which once stood at the foot of the Side in Newcastle (see vol. iii., p. 314), and the portcullis of the Newgate. The lodge gates, surmounted with finely-sculptured white bulls, have, as may be seen from our engraving, a stately

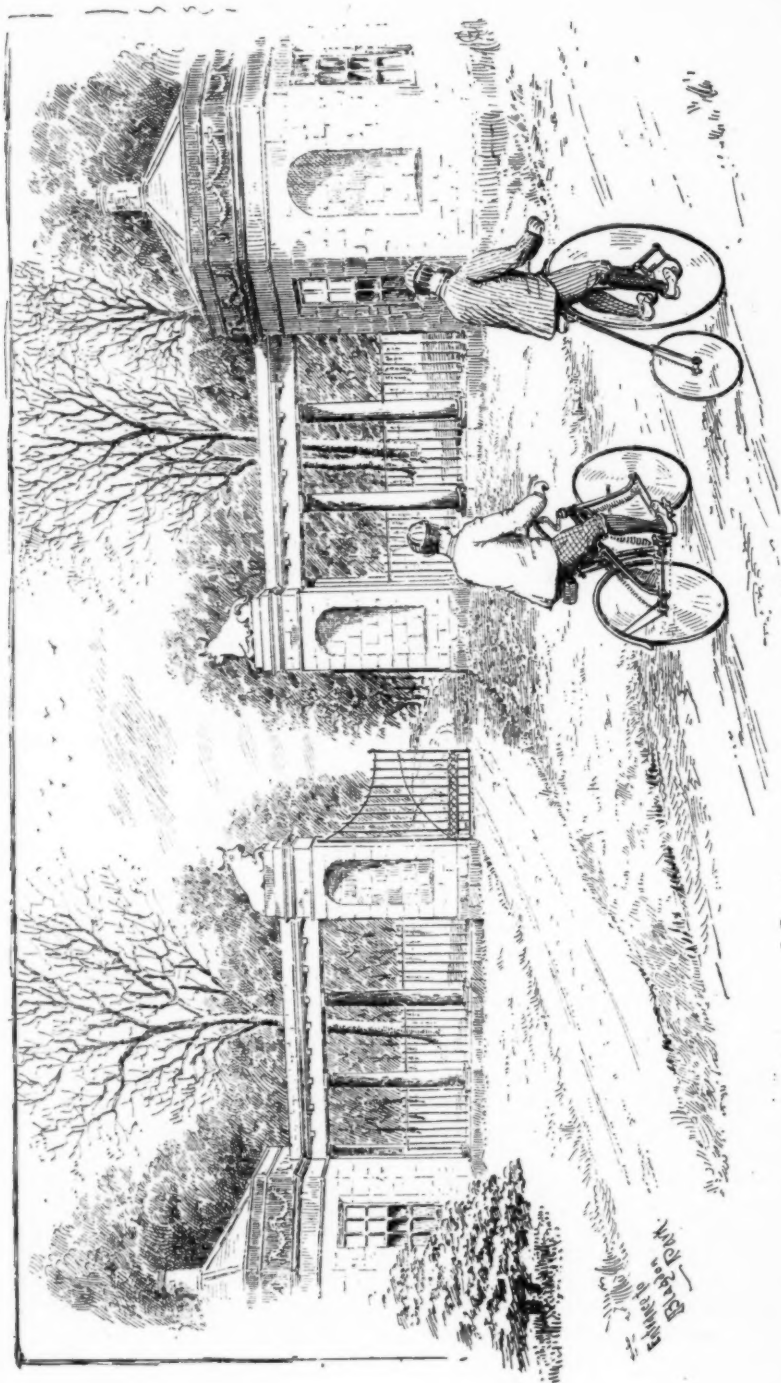
appearance. The manor of Blagdon, formerly Blakedene, was held of the barony of Morpeth by John de Plessis in the time of Henry III. In 1567 it belonged to the Fenwicks, who, after disposing of Little Harle, had their residence here until they sold it to the Whites. On the marriage of Elizabeth, eldest daughter and at length heiress of Matthew White, November 18, 1842, the estate passed into the possession of the Ridleys, whose ancient seat was Hardriding, near Haltwhistle. A celebrated member of the family was Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, who suffered martyrdom in the time of Queen Mary.

### Kirkley Hall and Obelisk.

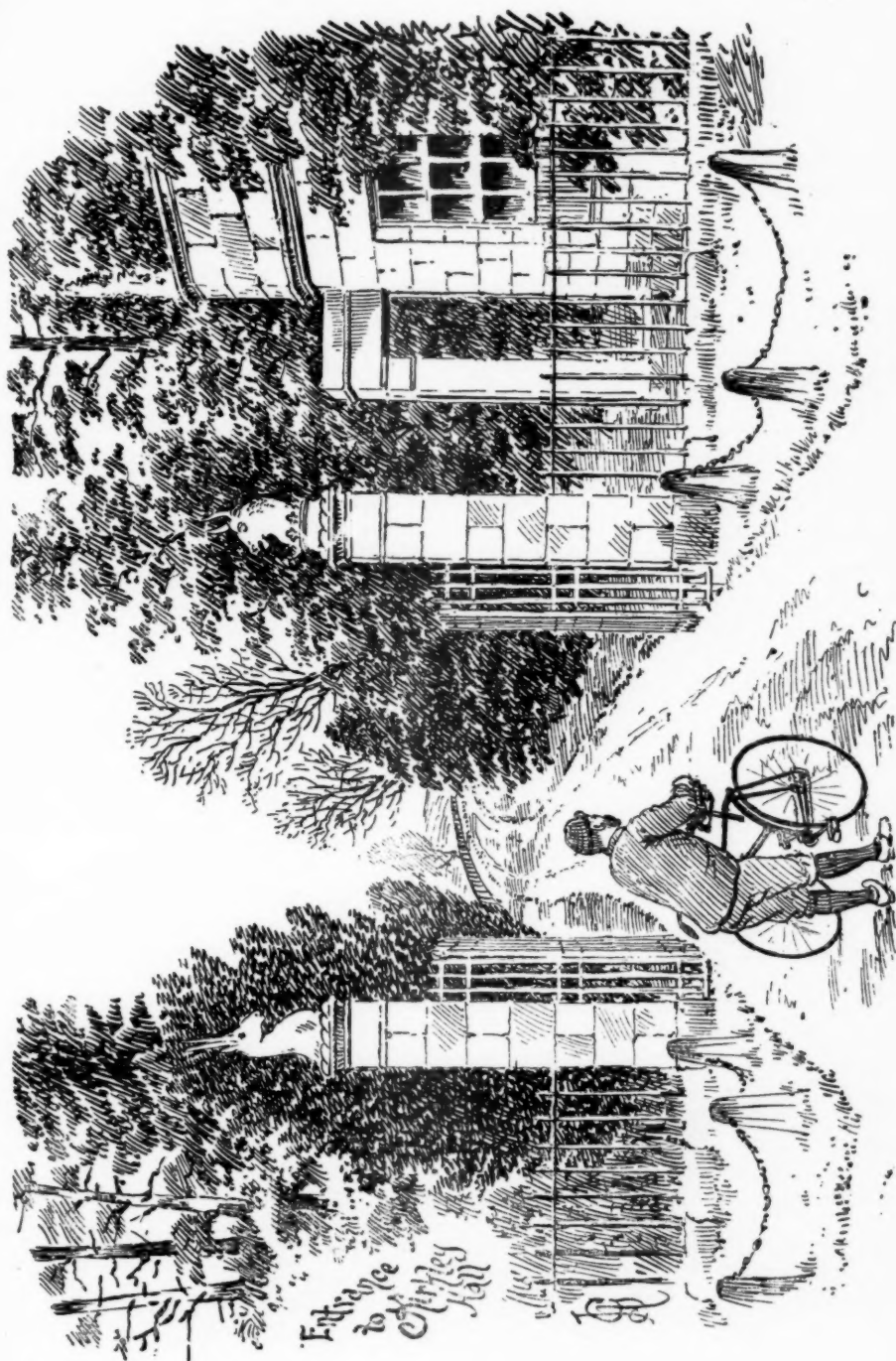
**K**IRKLEY HALL is situated on the river Blyth, two-and-a-half miles north by west from Ponteland. Over the door of a lodge at the entrance to the park are the arms of the Ogles. The two stone pillars of the gateway are crowned, the one with an antelope's head, the other with a bull's head. The mansion is a handsome square building, commanding extensive and picturesque views.

From Mr. Tomlinson's "Guide to Northumberland" we gather that Kirkley manor was held by the family of Eure in the reign of Edward II., by annually presenting a barbed arrow at the manor court. The lands of Sir John de Eure were seized by the Crown in the reign of Edward III., because his father, John de Eure, had aided the Scots in the preceding reign; but they were afterwards restored to the family. Sir Ralph de Eure was Lord Warden of the East Marches in the reign of Henry VIII., and his power and authority were such that during the whole term of his government he was able to maintain peace and order in a district often exposed to the ravages of the Scots. It was this Sir Ralph who burnt the town of Jedworth in 1544, and who, re-entering Scotland with 4,000 men in 1545, was slain at Halidon Hill. Sir Ralph is accused of great barbarity in the course of his invasion—such barbarity, in fact, that the memory of it inspired a woman known in legend as Fair Maiden Lilliard to lead a victorious attack on the English forces. (See *Monthly Chronicle*, 1888, page 245.) Sir William de Eure, son of Sir Ralph, was raised to the peerage in the same reign. Kirkley became the seat of a branch of the noble family of Ogle in the reign of James I. Here was born Sir Chaloner Ogle, admiral and commander-in-chief of the fleet, who, when in command of the Swallow man-of-war, captured the squadron of Roberts, the famous pirate, on the coast of Africa, 5th February, 1722.

An obelisk in Kirkley Park, erected by Dean Ogle in 1788 (anno centesimo), commemorates the landing of







William III. in 1688. It stands out prominently at the crown of a grassy knoll, overlooking the mansion and the surrounding country. The inscription upon it is as follows :—

Vindicate Libertatis Publicæ  
Anno Centesimo  
Salutis MDCLXXXVIII.  
Newton Ogle  
— — P.

### The Strange Robbery at Kirkley Hall.

**K**IRKLEY HALL was the scene of a mysterious robbery in the early years of the present century. Particulars of the affair are given in an eighteenpenny pamphlet, printed by J. Mitchell, at the *Tyne Mercury* Office, Newcastle, which bears the following title :—  
“Trial of James Charlton, at the Northumberland Assizes, held on the 29th of August, 1810, before Sir Robert Graham, Knight, one of the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, at the prosecution of Michael Aynsley, the elder, on the charge of robbing Kirkley Hall, on the 3rd of April, 1809, and feloniously stealing therefrom the sum of £1,157 13s. 6d., the property of Nathanael Ogle, Esq.”

Mr. Aynsley, the prosecutor, was land-steward to Mr. Ogle. Having received that gentleman's half-yearly

rents on Easter Monday, the 3rd of April, 1809, he deposited the money, amounting to the sum stated on the title-page of the pamphlet, in a closet in the office of Kirkley Hall. The money was amissing next morning, having been stolen during the night; and from the circumstances developed in the investigation of the case it appeared evident that the robbery must have been committed by some one well acquainted with the house and with the place where Mr. Aynsley had deposited the cash.

Suspicion soon fell upon James Charlton, who had for more than four years lived at Kirkley Hall, in the capacity of hind, during the time of the last proprietor, Dr. Ogle, Dean of Winchester, and who had, therefore, a good knowledge of the whole place, and particularly of the steward's office, as he had been in the habit of getting his accounts settled in that room.

Charlton, who up to this time had borne the character of an honest, industrious man, worked occasionally at St. Crispin's gentle craft, but was only an indifferent shoemaker, not having begun the trade till late in life. At the period of the robbery he was a labourer “at his own hand,” doing odd jobs for the farmers round about, contracting to harvest corn for so much per boll, and cobbling shoes between whiles. He lived at a place called Milburn, about two and a half miles from Kirkley Hall.

The office broken into was a place where a stranger would have been completely at fault. For there were



two closets or presses in it, exactly alike outside, one of which contained a chest or safe for valuables, and the other a bed, the image and counterpart of the safe until it was turned down. In the first closet there was a concealed well, where anything could be stowed away out of sight, the well being covered with a tightly-fitting shutter. There was, moreover, a writing desk with locked drawers in the room, as likely a place to keep money in as either of the closets. It was a fair inference that the burglar, whoever he was, must have been some person thoroughly familiar with these particulars. Now Charlton had often seen the press open, and as often seen Mr. Aynsley both put money into the well and take it out. But others had witnessed the same thing, and some of these persons were likewise suspected. One of them was a man named Clifford, living at Kirkley; another a horsebreaker of the same surname, residing at Morpeth. Against neither of these, however, was more than a bare hint of possible guilt or complicity ever brought.

Charlton had the misfortune to have been all his life steeped to the lips in poverty. He was therefore more likely to be tempted to steal, as Agur the son of Jakeh was afraid he might be. By an untoward condemnatory coincidence, too, he became flush of money, all of a sudden, the day after the robbery. For, on the afternoon of Easter Tuesday, 1809, when he went into a public-house at Ponteland, kept by a man named Barny Shotton, the people who were drinking there were surprised to see him with money in both pockets—a thing most unusual with him. One of the company, Robert Wilson, keeper of the neighbouring turnpike-gate, happened to have a bill against him from Mr. James Sillick, leather-cutter, Newcastle, for £6 14s. 4d. for leather, which had stood a long time over, and which Charlton had always pleaded inability to pay, even in instalments of ten shillings at a time. On that Easter Tuesday, however, Charlton said he would treat Wilson and the rest of the company to a crown bowl of punch. But Wilson observed that *thrashing* must be better than *shoemaking*, and Charlton swore by his Maker that it was. Then, putting his hand in his breeches pocket, he pulled out some gold, and said "Seest thou!" Afterwards, tapping Wilson on the shoulder to follow him to the other side of the room, he told him he was going to settle Sillick's bill, and that not by instalments, but altogether—which, on the Saturday, four days afterwards, he did. Margery Harbottle, whose husband kept a shop at Ponteland, and sold groceries, meal, and flour, received 13s. 5d. from Charlton on the same day, in payment of goods got some time the winter before. Richard Reed, miller, Ponteland, also had his bill, which had been owing near twelve months, honourably settled. On Saturday, the 8th of April, Charlton paid Sarah Kyle, of Ponteland, £3, which he had owed her fourteen months. On the same day, at Newcastle, he paid Edward Challoner, butcher, Morpeth, £2 1s. 6d., which had been

due about three years, and which the man had despaired of getting. Several other persons, in whose company Charlton had been during the Easter week, stated that he was then in possession of what seemed a good sum of money, in bank notes, gold, and silver, the gold being a guinea, a half-guinea, and several seven-shilling pieces. In one place, where there happened to be some people playing at cards, he wanted to bet a guinea on one man's hand, for which he was told he was only making a fool of himself, as he certainly could not afford to lose such a sum: whereupon he said he had plenty of money, and pulled a handful of gold out of one pocket, and a handful of silver out of another.

These facts becoming known, Charlton was apprehended on the 17th of May, at the instance of Mr. Aynsley; and the local magistrates, after hearing what they deemed sufficient evidence, committed him for trial at the forthcoming assizes.

Before proceeding further, it will be best to give some particulars concerning the robbery.

Mr. Ogle, the proprietor, did not reside at Kirkley Hall, his usual place of abode being somewhere about Southampton. He only came to the North occasionally for a short time in summer. The old mansion was therefore left in charge of the servants. Mr. Aynsley, the steward, then 75 years of age, lived at Newham, three miles off, and was a man of some property, having a small estate of his own at Matfen, worth a little better than a hundred a year. The money stolen was made up as follows:—A bundle of five and ten pound notes, together amounting to £1,020, a five guinea note, 126 one pound notes, one guinea in gold, a half-guinea in gold, six seven-shilling pieces in gold, and £1 14s. in silver. All this was enclosed in a canvas bag, and deposited in the well above mentioned, a place where, as Mr. Aynsley remarked to the housekeeper, "the devil himself could not find it," though he afterwards denied that he had said this.

In consequence of receiving an intimation that the mansion-house had been broken into, Mr. Aynsley went next morning thither. Arriving at Kirkley Hall before eight in the morning, he went into the office to examine the press, and found that the outer door had been forced open, the drawers pulled out, and the books and papers thrown upon the floor. Three panes of glass were broken in one of the windows in the servants' hall. These windows were two in number; one of them had been fastened overnight, the other not; but the window which was fastened was the one broken. It had been fastened with a nail, which had been pulled out and was found lying on the floor. The broken glass was mostly inside. The sash had been thrown up with violence. There had also been violence offered to the door leading out of the servants' hall, by which alone access could be got to the office.

As soon as the news reached Mr. Ogle, he sent down

a Bow Street officer, named Lavender, to inquire into the particulars; and immediately after that inquiry, the results of which were not made public, he dismissed Aynsley from his service. The steward was greatly blamed for leaving the money in the office, and he was told that his employer would certainly look to him for it; but he pleaded Mr. Ogle's own written instructions in exoneration, as well as the fact that cash had often been deposited there, when access could not be had to another place, called "the stronghold," of which Mr. Ogle had the key at the time; so that, unless he had carried the rents home with him, which he did not consider safe, he had no alternative but to deposit the cash where he did.

Whoever the guilty person was, his mind must have been soon alarmed; for, on the following Saturday morning, one of the female domestics, named Dorothy Hodgson, a steady woman who had been in Mr. Ogle's service twelve years, having got up at six o'clock to go to one Matthew Smith's, who lived in a plantation near the hall, observed a parcel lying close beside a door in the shrubbery, and brought it home, fancying it had something to do with the robbery. And so it actually had. Dorothy, sick with excitement, fainted away on arriving in the house. The parcel was found to contain bank notes amounting to £510. The place where it was picked up was close to the public road, and a person on horseback could easily have dropped it there, without getting off his horse. Mr. Aynsley, it turned out, had gone to Newcastle that morning by way of Kirkley, though it was a mile or two out of his direct route, and part of it a very bad road. Only the day before, moreover, Dorothy had had some conversation with him about the robbery, when he said to her, "Keep a sharp look-out, Dolly; perhaps the money will come back." And the next day (Sunday) after that on which the kitchen-maid had picked up the parcel, Mr. Aynsley repeated these words, or terms to the same effect, to the gardener, emphasizing the word *all*—"all the money." When afterwards questioned about this, he explained that his reason for saying so was that it was too large a sum for any person to conceal. However this may have been, on Monday, the day following, another paper parcel was found, again near the shrubbery door, with £485 in it. But the remainder (£162) never cast up. The bag which had contained the money was returned to Mr. Aynsley empty, on Tuesday, the 4th of August, by a woman of the name of Rachael Hall, who found it on the west area of the house, not far from the garden.

These are the main facts.

At the Assizes, in 1890, the bill presented against Charlton was thrown out by the grand jury, and the fact was immediately communicated to him by one of the turnkeys, Ralph Sprunston, who told him through a grating in the keep of the old Castle at Newcastle, then

used as a place of temporary detention during the Assize week, and known as the Castle Garth Prison, that Mr. Blake, the gaoler, would very soon come and take off his irons. In Charlton's ignorance, he confounded the rejection of the bill with an acquittal by a common jury; and in the confidence of his good fortune he confessed to a fellow-prisoner, one William Taylerson, that he was the thief. Becoming subsequently wiser, he would fain have bribed his confidant by the sum of eighteen-pence! But Taylerson repeated the conversation, and it came to the ears of the gaoler, who took steps to secure the re-arrest of Charlton; and meanwhile a pardon was got for the informant, who had been sentenced to death at the same Assizes for burglary and horse-stealing, and who was thus restored to competency as a witness.

The Assizes were at that time held only once in the year (August) at Newcastle and in Northumberland; and a new bill could not be preferred until 1810. It was then returned by the grand jury as true. The judges on this occasion were Sir Allan Chambre and Sir Robert Graham, and it was before the latter that Charlton was tried. Mr. Topping, for the prosecution, addressed the jury, detailing the facts as summarised above, and then called as witnesses Michael Aynsley, Dorothy Hodgson, Jane Pybus, Rachael Hall, Samuel Davidson, Robert Wilson, Elizabeth Sillick, John Phillips, Margery Harbottle, Matthew Mackie, Robert Reed, Sarah Kyle, Edward Challoner, and William Taylerson. The examination was conducted by Mr. Topping and Mr. Scarlett, afterwards Lord Abinger, who had that year for the first time assumed the position of a leader in the circuit, though, while still a junior counsel, he had acquired the epithet of "verdict-getter," owing to his tact in managing juries. The counsel for the defence were Messrs. Raine, Bullock, and Losh, who cross-examined the witnesses with great ability. The solicitor for the prosecution was Mr. P. Fenwick; for the prisoner, Mr. Matthew Forster.

Taylerson's evidence was to the effect that, on the forenoon of the day on which the bill against Charlton was thrown out, they, being together in the same cell, got into casual conversation. Taylerson having mentioned that he came from Stockton-upon-Tees, Charlton said his wife came from the same place, and so they became acquainted. He did not talk about his own case in the morning, but after Sprunston had delivered his message he said he was very happy he had not gone before my lord, as he feared his own conscience would have condemned him. Taylerson replied, "Why need your conscience condemn you, so long as you are clear?" Charlton replied that there were more than sixty witnesses against him, but added, "If I had known as much as I know now, I should not have given up a halfpenny of the money." "Were you, then," said Taylerson, "guilty of breaking the house?" Charlton confessed he was, stating the amount of money he had taken, explaining



how he knew it was there, and summing up by saying he knew the house as well as if he had been born and bred in it. He entered it in the dead hour of the night, carrying a dark pocket lantern. He tried many doors and windows before he could get in, but at length his wife entered by a broken pane in the window and admitted him. He had not much difficulty in finding the money, but had many books and papers to turn over before he came to it. He said he had been examined four times, and would not have been committed the fifth time if his story had agreed with his brother's relating to some money the latter was alleged to have lent him. He added, however, that if he and his brother had gone to the bar, their stories would now have agreed, as they had had many conversations with his attorney. That gentleman had often asked him to confess, but he was determined not to do so. None of the notes were backed, and he was not much afraid of being detected; there was one five-pound note only of which he was afraid, which he had paid to a woman in Newcastle for leather, and which was torn; it had been inquired about among all the farmers in the rounds, so that it might be brought against him, and he was afraid the woman would be brought forward to identify it. He went on to say that he got up on the Saturday after the robbery between 5 and 6 o'clock in the morning, went to Kirkley Hall, and flung some of the money on to the garden walk. He then proceeded on his journey to Newcastle, and met the steward on the road; but, to avoid confronting him face to face, he got over the hedge and hid himself till Aynsley had passed.

The prisoner being called on for his defence, he said he was innocent, but left himself entirely in the hands of his counsel. Mr. John Wilson, of Morpeth, a confidential friend of Mr. Ogle's, proved that he had found fault with Mr. Aynsley for putting the money in such an insecure place. Then William Hannington, bricklayer, who had been working at Milburn Hall during Easter, 1809, swore that he saw Charlton on the night of Easter Monday in his own house between 8 and 10 o'clock, and next morning again, about 4 o'clock, coming out of his room, with a skeel under his arm, going to get water. He owned, when cross-examined, that he had been at Ponteland at a dance that night, and that he had had a good deal of drink. Robert Dickson, David Taylor, William Howison, and Andrew Murray, masons, who all lodged in the same house with Charlton, had heard no noise during the night of the robbery, and did not think any person could have gone out and come in without their hearing him. They could hear noises distinctly from the prisoner's room, but did not hear any that night. If there had been any noise, a terrier dog, which was in the house, would have been sure to rouse them. Robert Dees, alehouse-keeper, who lived at Newham Edge, a mile from Newham, where Mr. Aynsley resided, and about two miles from Kirkley,

deposed that on the Saturday after the robbery he had some conversation with Aynsley on the subject. It began on that gentleman's side, for, said the cautious Boniface, "it would not have been decent, after the stories I had heard, for me to have begun it." He remembered perfectly Mr. Aynsley saying that the greatest part (or all) of the money would come back. Mr. Thomas Gillespy, farmer, Haindykes, said Charlton had been his barnman, got his victuals in the house, always behaved well, and made a good deal of money.

William Charlton, the prisoner's brother, deposed that he lent him ten pounds a fortnight or three weeks before Easter, in small notes; he also lent him ten pounds more, in a five-pound note and five small notes, in Easter week. This witness had previously told several different stories, both as to the days on which the money was lent, and the currency in which it was paid; but he now tried to explain the contradictions by saying: "I was never before a magistrate before, and Mr. Clennell threatened me so much that I did not know what I was saying or doing, and might then give a different account, and even swear to it." "Mr. Fenwick put the questions to me, and said, if I did not sign the paper, they would send my brother to prison immediately, and I was so frightened that I signed it."

The prisoner had gone to his work as usual on the day after the robbery. So swore Joseph Emmerson, whose shop fronted the barn at Haindykes.

A man named William Oliver, who was in confinement at the same time with Taylerson, remembered having some talk with him in Morpeth Gaol about Charlton, three weeks or thereabouts after the previous assizes. Taylerson said Charlton had got discharged without a bill being found, and "the odd money" had fetched him through his troubles, but he (Taylerson) would gain his own liberty by fetching him in again. Oliver made answer to him, "Would you, for the value of your liberty, hang another man?" "Yes," said he, "liberty is sweet." "So," rejoined Oliver, "for your liberty you would hang a man?" "Yes," repeated he, "I would hang a man for my liberty."

At the close of the evidence, Sir Robert Graham, the judge, summed up the evidence, commenting on it as he proceeded. This occupied him at least three hours, and he finished his charge to the jury about 1 o'clock in the morning. The jury then retired, and, after a consultation of five minutes, brought in a verdict of "Guilty."

When the verdict was pronounced, Charlton gave a convulsive sigh, and exclaimed, in a low tone, "Dear me!" But that was all. He had been perfectly composed while the trial was going on, and he was equally unmoved when called up some hours afterwards to receive sentence.

His lordship remarked that, if the prisoner was guilty of the crime, as the jury had found him to be, his case

was attended with considerable aggravation, from the nature of the strong circumstantial evidence which had been adduced in his favour. The whole trial, indeed, presented such an immense variety of evidence, that it required men of no ordinary talent to weigh the circumstances with due consideration, in order to obtain a complete development of the case. After a full and fair investigation, however, the jury had pronounced a verdict of guilty, and it only then became his imperious duty to pass that sentence which the law enjoined as the penalty for such offences. He thought it necessary, however, to observe that a variety of circumstances, favourable to the prisoner, had transpired which the more he considered led him to think there was still a mystery about the whole case that he could neither unravel nor understand. These favourable circumstances, said his lordship, would necessarily have the effect of postponing the execution of the sentence till the case should be submitted to the consideration of his gracious Majesty. Sentence of death was then passed in the usual form.

Four prisoners in all were cast for death at these assizes. But, before the judges left Newcastle, they were pleased to reprove all who had been sentenced to be hanged, except John Bowman, a horse-stealer, who was left for execution, but who also was afterwards reprieved.

The sentence on James Charlton was commuted to some penalty short of death; but we find no record of the particulars, and what became of him ultimately does not seem to be known.

At the request of several respectable persons, who felt for Charlton's distresses and those of his family, a subscription was opened for the purpose of defraying the expense of an application for his Majesty's pardon, and also for the support of his family—a wife and four helpless young children. Subscriptions were received by E. Humble and Son, booksellers, Newcastle; but as to the precise amount raised, or the way in which the money was spent, it would perhaps be impossible at this distance of time to discover.

And who it was that really robbed Kirkley Hall is still a mystery, and will most likely ever remain so.

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## The Assassination of Gustavus of Sweden.

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USTAVUS THE THIRD ascended the throne of Sweden in 1772. The king, who was then in his 25th year, solemnly swore at his coronation that he would support the government of the kingdom as then established; that he would maintain the rights and liberties of the States, consisting of the four orders, nobles, clergy, citizens, and peasants; and that he would reign over his subjects with gentleness and equity, according to the laws. But these

oaths he soon after determined to disregard. It is said he secretly fomented the disunion between the nobles and the inferior orders of the people, so that the business in the Diet came to a deadlock. Having thus prepared the ground, Gustavus effected, in a manner similar to that afterwards adopted by Napoleon the Third, the complete overthrow of the Constitution.

It was on the 19th of August, 1772, that the Swedish *coup d'état* was accomplished. Massing in and around Stockholm a great array of officers and soldiers in whom he could place reliance, Gustavus seized the absolute power he coveted, and that without shedding so much as a single drop of blood. All the members of the Senate who were obnoxious to him were, however, made prisoners. A new Constitution was proclaimed, and an assembly of the States invoked. The new Diet accordingly met on the 21st of August, but the hall in which the members assembled was surrounded by troops, while loaded cannon were planted in the streets commanding it. Seated on his throne and protected by his guards, Gustavus, after addressing a speech to the Diet, ordered a secretary to read the new form of government offered for its acceptance. This new form of government made the king absolute master of all the powers of the State. The members of the Diet, knowing that they were at the mercy of an armed force, thought it prudent to comply at once with what was required of them. The marshals, acting for the nobles, and the speakers of the inferior orders, acting for their respective constituents, accordingly signed the Constitution in due form.

The system which was established in this arbitrary fashion lasted for twenty years. Gustavus is alleged to have exercised his despotic power with creditable moderation. Under his "firm but wholesome rule," we are told, Swedish industry, commerce, credit, and political influence revived. The abilities he displayed in the course of a war which was waged in Finland against Russia in the autumn of 1788, helped to consolidate his authority. But great discontent was aroused against him four years later when he announced that he had matured a plan of coalition between Sweden, Russia, Prussia, and Austria, against Revolutionary France. Discontent took the form of conspiracy. Seeing no chance of relief through the ordinary processes of agitation, since Gustavus was absolute master of the State, the conspirators, most of whom were members of the aristocracy, entered into a scheme for removing the king himself.

Repeated warnings, it seems, had been sent to Gustavus of the danger which threatened him. One of these warnings reached his Majesty on the 16th of March, 1792, when he was about to attend a ball at the Opera House. Disregarding the information he had received, the king entered the ball-room, whereupon he was instantly surrounded by a crowd of maskers in black dresses, one of whom lodged the contents of a pistol in his left hip. The king immediately removed his own

mask, asked his master of the horse to take him back to his apartment, and a fortnight later expired of his wounds.

Terrible was the punishment that befel the assassin and his accomplices. As soon as the fatal shot had been fired in the Opera House, an officer of the guards ordered all the doors and gates to be shut. Two pistols were found in the hall, the one lately discharged and the other loaded with points and heads of nails. There was also found a large carving knife, sharpened on both edges, and full of hacks, rendering a wound from it the more dangerous. It was ascertained that these weapons had belonged to Johann Jakob Ankarstroem, who had formerly been a captain in the Swedish service, and who was known to be violently opposed to the measures taken by the king to curtail the power of the nobles. Ankarstroem was arrested, confessed his guilt, and, when threatened with torture, implicated some of his accomplices, among them Count Horn, Count Ribbing, Baron Ehrenswärd, Baron Bjelke, and Major Hartmanstroff. It transpired at the trial that the principal conspirators had drawn lots to determine which of them should assassinate the king, and that the duty of discharging this dreadful office had fallen to Count Ankarstroem. Several of the conspirators were condemned to death, accompanied by barbarous and degrading circumstances. Ankarstroem himself was conducted to the Knight's Hall Market, fastened by an iron collar upon a scaffold for two hours, and afterwards tied to a stake and whipped with a rod of five lashes. The punishment inflicted on the first day was repeated on the two following days—first at the Haymarket, and then at the Market of Adolphus Frederic. A few days later his right hand was chopped off by the executioner, who subsequently beheaded him, and then divided his body into four quarters, which were hung up at different parts of the city, there to remain until they rotted away. Four of the other prisoners were treated in much the same manner. It is stated, however, that Ankarstroem, instead of being executed in the way just described, was fixed alive to a gibbet in the Market Place, where he was compelled to remain till he died of starvation.

But what has all this to do with North-Country lore and legend? Well, one of the officers of the Swedish guards who was on duty at the Opera House when Gustavus was assassinated, and who was afterwards present with his regiment when Ankarstroem was barbarously punished, became in later years a well-known resident of Newcastle. Of this gentleman, of Major Thain (his father), and of Lord Dundonald, the father of the celebrated Lord Cochrane, some reminiscences were supplied to the *Weekly Chronicle* in 1876 by the late Mr. John Theodore Hoyle, then coroner for Newcastle. Mr. Hoyle prefixed to these reminiscences the following statement:—"You may place implicit reliance on the memorandum I have drawn up, for I had

every word of it from Major Thain (the father) himself."

We now subjoin Mr. Hoyle's narrative:—

About the year 1800, the Lord Dundonald of that day paid great attention to, and was well acquainted with, chemistry, and studied it with the view of its application to arts and manufactures. About that time he resided at Scotswood, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in a respectable brick house there, facing the river, and not far from the place where the well-known Kitty's Drift, which was made for the underground waggon-way from Kenton, discharged itself on to the Tyne. He had a small manufactory near there, which was more for experimental purposes than anything else.

A gentleman, who afterwards became well known on the Tyne, connected with chemical works, resided for some period with Lord Dundonald. This gentleman's name was James Thain, and his father resided for some time in Wales, and his will is proved there.

Mr. Thain's career was a remarkable one. In early life he was an officer in the Swedish Guards, and was on duty at the opera at Stockholm the night Gustavus was shot by Count Ankarstroem, and was afterwards present with a guard of his regiment when Ankarstroem, after he had been tried and condemned to death, was affixed alive to a gibbet in the Market Place at Stockholm, and allowed to remain there till he died of starvation.

We then find Mr. Thain at Scotswood, where, after devoting himself for some time to learning chemistry, he became an officer in the Northumberland Militia, where he attained the rank of major, and for some years accompanied the regiment to various parts of England and Ireland.

Mr. Thain had a son and daughter. The son became an ensign in the same militia, and obtained his commission in the Line by getting the requisite number of Northumbrians to volunteer with him into the regulars. He accompanied his regiment, and was present at the storming of Bergen-op-Zoom, and he was also present at Waterloo; and at the end of the war he was quartered with it at Sunderland and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where he was much in society in the North of England, and was highly esteemed. The sabre he wore at Waterloo is now in possession of the writer's family.

In the summer of 1839 he went out to the East Indies as aide-de-camp to General Elphinstone, who had been his colonel when in the 33rd Regiment, and was killed, as appears by all the narratives of the Afghan war, at the retreat through the Cabul Pass, from which there were only two survivors of all the Europeans who attempted to make their escape by that means.

Major Thain, the father, was for many years the superintending manager of the Walker Alkali Works when belonging to the Losh family. He passed the latter part of his life in Newcastle, and translated "Frithiof" and other poems from the Swedish, and died about 1837 or 1838 at his lodgings in Brunswick Place. He was buried in St. Andrew's Churchyard. The writer was much with him for ten or twelve years, and was greatly indebted to him in the direction of his studies.

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### The Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade.

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IT is needless to remind those who, twenty-five years ago, witnessed scenes of shipwreck and death at the mouth of the Tyne, of the motives and feelings that induced a party of compassionate gentlemen to band themselves together just after the lamentable wreck of the steamship Stanley, to obtain a knowledge of the use of the rocket apparatus, and thus be enabled to render efficient assist-

ance to the coastguard in their praiseworthy, but often powerless, efforts to save life. Of the original members—one hundred and forty—only fifteen yet remain who are able and willing to work and muster for duty in stormy weather. It is gratifying to find, however, that, as from various causes the original members have fallen away, their places have been filled by young and active men, and the work which the brigade seek to accomplish seems likely to go on so long as gallant ships sail the seas and men's lives are in jeopardy. The philanthropic work is one of the most popular institutions in the borough of Tynemouth. All along the coast similar brigades have been established, but Tynemouth was the first to unfurl the flag of humanity to our seafarers. The loss of life previously had been appalling, as may readily be conceived when it is placed on record that at one time no fewer than thirty vessels were to be seen ashore at the mouth of the Tyne as the result of a single gale.

Mr. John Morrison would appear to have been the first, through the medium of the press, to put suggestions for the benefit of our seafaring community into tangible form. He at once found willing coadjutors in Mr. John Foster Spence and the late Mr. Joseph Spence, two most estimable Quaker gentlemen, who took kindly to the scheme, expressing the opinion that "this was a sort of volunteering which even they might encourage." Public meetings followed, and in the end, as the result of the agitation, Mr. J. F. Spence, under date November 30, 1864, intimated in the local newspapers that names of intending volunteer life-brigadesmen would be received by Mr. Kilgour, Custom House; Mr. Greenhow, Shipping Office; Mr. Messent, Tyne Piers Office; Mr. John Morrison, 54, Front Street, Tynemouth; and Mr. George Hewitt, police superintendent, North Shields. Mr. Joseph Spence was appointed treasurer (a position which he filled with indefatigable energy and

much credit up to the time of his regrettable death, which occurred at Tynemouth on December 17, 1889, after an honoured and active public life extending over seventy years); Mr. J. F. Spence was appointed secretary, and the first committee con-



Mr John Morrison.

sisted of Messrs. James Gilbert, James Blackburn, Edward Fry, John Morrison, James Hindmarsh, H. A. Adamson, Joseph Menzies, Stanley Kewney, Michael Detchon, Thomas Taylor, and the Rev. H. S. Hicks. A



FIRING THE ROCKET.



code of rules was drawn up, and submitted to the Board of Trade by Mr. John Morrison, and that authority instructed Captain Robertson, R.N., inspecting commander of the district, to take the matter up. From this time Alderman John Foster Spence conducted all the correspondence with the Board of Trade, whilst Mr.



*Alderman John Foster Spence.*

John Morrison carried on an active and successful canvass for members. The code of rules was soon afterwards approved by the Board of Trade, who, indeed, thought them so admirable that even to the present day they are annually printed and circulated in all the Life Saving Apparatus Reports of the Board as a guide to similar bodies.

For long the members of the brigade experienced much difficulty in successfully carrying on their work, owing to the want of knowledge regarding the apparatus among the crews of stranded vessels; but this difficulty has



COMING ASHORE IN BREECHES BUOY.

since been met by the "instruction boards" which are now placed on all vessels by the Board of Trade.

Our portrait of Mr. J. F. Spence is copied from an oil painting by Mr. F. S. Ogilvie, of North Shields, while that of Mr. John Morrison is reproduced from a photograph by Messrs. Auty and Ruddock, of Tynemouth.

The other sketches which accompany this article show how the rocket apparatus is worked. When the apparatus—which is transported in a waggon specially provided for the purpose—has arrived at the scene of action and is got into position, a rocket, with a thin line attached, is fired over the wreck. This line is secured by the crew on board, who, at a given signal, make fast a block to the highest secure part of the wreck. Another signal is then made, and the coastguard, by means of an endless line, haul off a hawser, which is made fast on board about eighteen inches above the block. If the wreck is stationary, and circumstances permit, the shore end of the hawser is passed over a crutch, and set taut with a tackle, which is generally hooked into an anchor buried in the beach for the purpose. A breeches-buoy, which travels suspended from the hawser, is then hauled backwards and forwards between the vessel and the shore until all the passengers and crew are landed, the persons to be saved sitting in the buoy with legs thrust through the breeches.

### Whitefield in the North.



GEORGE WHITEFIELD, the fellow-labourer of Wesley, was undoubtedly one of the most remarkable preachers England ever produced. From a memorandum book in which he recorded the times and places of his ministerial labours, it appears that from the period of his ordination to that of his death, which was thirty-four years, he had preached upwards of eighteen thousand sermons. He had a fine, clear, audible voice, and such a distinct articulation that it is said he could be heard nearly a mile off. On one occasion, at Cambuslang, in Lanarkshire, he preached to between thirty and forty thousand people, of whom three thousand afterwards sat down at the Lord's table. In Moorfields, London, and on Kensington Common, he frequently preached to twenty thousand people. Benjamin Franklin, who was present at one of his great gatherings in America, calculated that he could be heard by thirty thousand at once. He preached almost by preference in the open air. On such a place as Newcastle Moor he was far more at home than in a church, chapel, or meeting house. The rude coal-miners flocked to hear him wherever he went, at Bristol, Kingswood, Cardiff, Wallsall, Leeds, Sheffield, Newcastle, Cambuslang, or Dunfermline. The effect of his fervid eloquence was magical. Five persons are said to

have been driven mad by one sermon with fear and excitement; and it was jocularly remarked as to his rhetorical power, that if he only pronounced the word "Mesopotamia," it was almost enough to make a sensitive soul cry! His success as a popular preacher, however, was due, not to his talents, which were mediocre, nor to his learning, which was small, nor to his worldly knowledge or prudence, which were far inferior to Wesley's, but to the earnestness of his faith, the fluency and ready strength of his homely speech, the singularly sonorous and expressive tone of his voice, and the vehemence and impetuosity of his nature.

One of Whitefield's most famous missionary journeys was that which he made to Scotland in 1741. He went thither on the invitation of Ralph and Ebenezer Erskine (whose father, Henry, was imprisoned at Newcastle in 1685). The two brothers flourish in ecclesiastical history as leaders of the first great secession from the Church of Scotland; but, comparatively liberal-minded men as they were, Whitefield's notions were too catholic for them; for he was as ready to preach in an Established Church as to a seceding congregation, and more ready still to preach in the open air. Nine of the seceding ministers met in a sort of synod at Ralph Erskine's house to set the Southern stranger right about Church Government and the Solemn League and Covenant. Whitefield bluntly told them that they might save themselves the trouble, for he had no scruples either about the one or the other. They begged that he would preach only for them till he had got further light. "And why only for you?" said he. "Because," replied Ralph Erskine, "we are the Lord's people." "Are there no other Lord's people but yourselves?" inquired Whitefield: "if not, they are the devil's people, and so have all the more need to be preached to. For my part," continued he, "all places are alike to me, and if the Pope himself would lend me his pulpit, I would gladly preach in it the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." The ministers contended that the Presbyterian form of Church Government was of divine institution, and all others human inventions. Whitefield, laying his hand on his heart, said, "I do not find it here." Whereupon Alexander Moncrieff replied, as he rapped the Bible that lay on the table, "But I find it here." Finding their guest incorrigible, they had no alternative but to leave him to his own devices, which accordingly they did.

On his second visit to Scotland he found the Associate Presbytery still full of wrath. Even the Erskines were unfriendly. One reverend gentleman, named Gib, went the length of preaching a sermon at Bristo, then a suburb of Edinburgh, to warn his flock "against countenancing the ministrations of Mr. George Whitefield." In this discourse, which was immediately afterwards printed, Mr. Gib denounced the "latitudinarian" Englishman as one of the false Christs of whom Christ forewarned the Church. When a revival broke out among the

coal-miners in Lanarkshire, the seceders convened a Presbytery meeting, which appointed a fast "for the diabolical delusion which had seized the people." Nor was the dislike to Whitefield's bold preaching confined to this new sect. The Cameronians, too, called him "the most latitudinarian prelatist priest that ever essayed to expand and unite into one almost all sorts and sizes of sects and heresies whatsoever with orthodox Christians." He had come to the North, they averred, "to pervert the truth, subvert the people, and make gain to himself by making merchandise of his pretended ministry." They expressly protested, testified, and declared against the delusion of Satan at Cambuslang and other places, and against "all the managers, aiders, assisters, countenancers, and encouragers of the same."

Whitefield's visits to Scotland were both by sea, and the return southwards by land through Carlisle. His first visit to Newcastle was in August, 1749. On his way thither from Leeds he met Charles Wesley going South. They had not seen each other for a good while, and there had never been anything like cordial union between Whitefield and the Wesleys since the time when the doctrinal split took place between them on the knotty subject of Calvinism *versus* Arminianism. On this occasion, however, they embraced each other as friends, and Charles Wesley, turning his horse's head round, came back immediately to Newcastle to introduce Mr. Whitefield to the Methodist body there, which was already numerous. "Honest George," as he was familiarly called, preached for several days in the Orphan House in Northumberland Street, and never, we are told, was he "more blessed or better satisfied." "Whole troops of the Dissenters he mowed down," Charles Wesley wrote. "The world was confounded," he went on to say. Here, as at Leeds and other places in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire, through which "Brother Charles" and "Honest George" rode in company, we are told the Established and Dissenting clergy were very angry, and "their churches and chapels echoed with the thunder of their displeasure."

On their way south from Newcastle, Whitefield and Charles Wesley visited their little flock in Sheffield, who were "as sheep in the midst of wolves," the ministers having so stirred up the people that they were ready to tear them in pieces. "Hell was moved from beneath" to oppose the Methodist preachers. "The whole army of the aliens" followed them. As there were no magistrates in Sheffield, which was then a small town of ten thousand inhabitants, every man did as seemed good in his own eyes. "Satan now put it into their hearts to pull down the Society House." And they set to their work while the Methodists were singing and praising God. Charles Wesley says he could compare them to nothing but the men of Sodom, or those coming out of the tombs exceeding fierce. They pressed hard to break open the door. Charles would have gone out to them, but the brethren

would not suffer him. The mob laboured all night, and by morning had pulled down one end of the house. Before long they had not left one stone upon another. At length some one came and read the Riot Act, and the mob dispersed. Whitefield afterwards preached to these sons of Belial, "and some of them were convinced by him, some converted and added to the Church, and the remainder mostly silenced."

Whitefield's third visit to Scotland was more to his satisfaction. He was much better received than before. Larger congregations than ever waited on his word. Ralph Erskine and he met, and shook hands. The pamphleteers were quiet. And many of his enemies were glad to be at peace with him. "I shall have reason to bless God for ever," says he, "for this last visit to Scotland."

In the summer of 1752, he went on a preaching tour through the provinces. His progress through the North of England was "a sublime march." From Sheffield he wrote that since he left Newcastle he had sometimes scarce known whether he was in heaven or on earth. "As he swept along from time to time, thousands and thousands flocked twice and thrice a day to hear the Word of Life. A gale of Divine influence everywhere attended it." He continued his work until he reached Northampton, where he took coach for London.

It was to be expected that one who eclipsed the best actors of the day in grace of action and naturalness of expression, and who, at the same time, assailed theatre-going with unsparing severity, would be attacked in turn. In Glasgow he warned his hearers to avoid the playhouse, which was then only the wooden booth of some strolling players, and represented to them the pernicious influence of theatres upon religion and morality. About the same time—we know not whether in consequence of Whitefield's remarks—the proprietor of the booth ordered his workmen to take it down. This simple affair was thus reported in a Newcastle journal when he had got as far south as that town:—"By a letter from Edinburgh we are informed that, on the 2nd instant, Mr. Whitefield, the itinerant, being at Glasgow, and preaching to a numerous audience near the playhouse lately built, he inflamed the mob so much against it, that they ran directly from before him and pulled it down to the ground. Several of the rioters are since taken up and committed to gaol." Rumour was a sad exaggerator and distorter of fact in those days.

Whitefield, now an old grey-haired man, paid his farewell visit to the North in the summer of 1768. The congregations he drew were as large and attentive as those which he addressed twenty-seven years before, when he was called a goodly youth by his friends and an imp of the devil by his enemies.

## The Captured Prelate.



**A**FTER the defeat of the English at Bannockburn, the North of England was exposed to repeated inroads by the Scots, who pillaged, burnt, and destroyed everything in their way. Famine naturally followed in the track of war, and the Marches of the two kingdoms were reduced to a state of desolation such as had not been seen since the days of William the Conqueror. Prisoners, we are told, devoured each other in the gaols, and mothers hid their children, as at the Siege of Samaria under Ahab, lest they should furnish a repast equally horrid. The greater part of the sheep, cattle, and horses died of murrain. The arable land lay fallow. A dreadful plague carried off tens of thousands of the people. Many fled to inaccessible places beyond the enemy's reach, and maintained themselves there by brigandage, preying equally on Scots and English. In the midst of these calamities, the Prince-Bishop of Durham, Richard Kellow, died, and the see became the object of contention among various claimants.

Four competitors for the vacant see appeared, and each of them was supported by powerful interests. The Earl of Lancaster recommended his chaplain, John de Kinardalee; the Earl of Hereford brought forward John Walwayne, a doctor of civil law; the King (Edward II.) recommended Thomas Charleton, also a civilian, and keeper of the royal signet; and the Queen (Isabella) supported the interest of her kinsman, Lewis Beaumont, who claimed to be a descendant of the royal families of France and Sicily, and could, at least, trace back his genealogy as far as Humbert I., who lived in 1080.

The election was fixed for the feast of St. Leonard (November 6th), and the monks of Durham, who, during the sort of anarchy that prevailed, were bent on vindicating their independence of every secular or lay power, determined to choose a man to their own mind, and fixed, accordingly, upon Henry de Stamford, the venerable prior of Finchale, a man recommended only by the mild dignity of age and of virtue.

On the election day, the Earls of Lancaster, Hereford, and Pembroke waited within the church during the whole time the conclave sat; Henry Beaumont, a brave and successful soldier, well-known on the Borders, was also there to support the interests of his brother; and some of the savage nobility of the County Palatine threatened, in the spirit of a *Front de Boeuf*, "if a monk was elected, to split his shaven crown." The monks, however, bravely maintained their equanimity, though surrounded on every side by violence and intrigue; and it was announced in the course of the afternoon that their unanimous choice had fallen on Henry de

Stamford, to the bitter chagrin of the imperious but divided nobles.

The King, who was at York, would have confirmed the choice of the convent and admitted the bishop-elect, who had been canonically and honourably chosen; but the Queen fell on her knees before him, saying, "My liege, I never yet asked anything for my kindred. If you bear me affection, grant me that my cousin, Lewis de Bellemonte, be Bishop of Durham." Overcome by this petition, which the fair adulteress well knew how to fortify by hypocritical arts, the King refused his confirmation, and sent letters to Pope John XXII. in favour of Lewis, for whom the King of France, the Eldest Son of the Church, also used his influence.

Despairing of justice at home, Stamford, with three companions, undertook a painful journey across the Apennines; but the royal letters far outstripped the tedious footsteps of age and infirmity, and Stamford, on his arrival at Rome, found that the Pope had already, at the joint request of the Kings of England and France, irrevocably bestowed the See of Durham on his powerful rival. As, however, he had documents to show that he had been duly chosen by the monks, and as nothing could be justly said against him, his Holiness gave him a grant of the priory of Durham, on the next vacancy, by way of compensation for the lost bishopric. But the poor old man did not live to reap any benefit therefrom. Exhausted with the fatigue of the voyage and the vexation of mind he had undergone, he only managed to reach the cell of Stamford, where he had formerly lived; and there he remained till a general decline brought on his dissolution, which took place on the day of St. Gregory, 1320. Robert Graystones, the historian of Durham, says a light was seen descending from heaven, like the rays of the sun, upon his tomb.

Lewis Beaumont, having been consecrated at Westminster, proposed to have himself installed at Durham on the festival of St. Cuthbert, in September, 1318. He accordingly began his progress to the North, attended by a numerous and splendid retinue. Two Roman cardinals, Gancelinus and Lucas, who were on their way to Scotland on a pacific embassy to King Robert Bruce, accompanied him northwards, and his brother Henry, with a small troop of gallant friends, formed what was deemed a sufficient escort.

At Darlington the bishop was met by a messenger from the convent to warn him that the road was in possession of marauders; but the high rank and sacred dignity of Lewis and his companions seemed to place danger at defiance, and the friendly notice was treated with neglect or suspicion. But a few hours verified the prediction that the party would be attacked. At the Rushy Ford, about midway betwixt the small villages of Wottouen or Woodham and Fery or Ferry Hill, the road crosses a sluggish and swamp-girt rivulet, in a low and sequestered

spot, well calculated for ambush, surprise, and prevention of escape. There a desperate band anxiously waited the arrival of their prey, and the bishop and his companions had no sooner reached the ford than they were enveloped in a cloud of light horsemen, under the command of Gilbert Middleton, a Northumbrian gentleman whom the necessities of the times had driven to adopt the lawless life of a freebooter. The Churchmen, having been taken at a disadvantage, while picking their way through the miry bog, unsuspecting of danger near, could make but a slight show of resistance to the onslaught, and were soon dismounted and secured. The whole party were then rifled, after which Middleton directed their horses to be restored to the two cardinals, and suffered them to proceed on their journey to Durham. Arrived there, their influence was successfully used in exciting the liberality of the monks, so as to raise money enough to ransom the captured prelate, who was meanwhile carried off, along with his brother, across a tract of sixty miles, through the heart of Durham and Northumberland, to the castle of Mitford.

The bishop himself, scion of royalty though he was, had not the wherewithal to redeem his own and his brother's liberty; for Pope John had made him pay so large a sum to the Holy See, before he would consent to his consecration, that he was never able entirely to discharge the debt in which it involved him. Middleton compelled the monks of Durham to lay down so large a ransom that the prior was forced to sell the plate and jewels of the Church in order to raise a part of it. For the rest, they were thankful to be allowed to give security—an exceedingly hard fate, considering that they did not want to have anything to do with Lewis de Bellemonte, who was more of a fine gentleman of the period than a learned and devout clerk.

Beaumont seems to have remained in durance vile from the month of September till the following May, on the 4th of which month he obtained possession of his temporalities. But these, alas! were woefully reduced; for only a short time before (anno 1317) two hundred men habited like friars had plundered, according to Stowe, the palaces of the Bishop of Durham, leaving nothing in them but bare walls. For this sacrilegious outrage the ringleaders were afterwards hanged at York, but that was a poor compensation indeed to St. Cuthbert's successor for the time being.

Of the bishop's temporary prison, Mitford Castle, Middleton was, says Graystones, the keeper only, not the proprietor. He was an unscrupulous freebooter or moss-trooper. He did many injuries to the priory of Tyne, mouth and other sacred places, no locality within reach being exempt from his ravages. At length he was taken, and the castle dismantled by Ralph Lord Greystoke and others. Middleton was carried to London and there executed, but Lord Greystoke was soon after poisoned at Gateshead by some of his confederates. The entire



barony of Mitford was then the property of Adomer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, one of the three earls who were present in Durham on the day of the bishop's election to overawe the monks; and nothing is more likely than that Middleton had his cue from him to pounce on Beaumont on his journey north. But Middleton is also said to have had an incentive in some fancied slight to a kinsman of his, Adam de Swinburn, whom the King had, it seems, used harshly in some business regarding the Marches.

On account of his ignorance of the Latin tongue the new bishop made a despicable figure at his consecration while trying to read the papal bull, which he had been taught to spell for several preceding days, but could not, after all, utter intelligibly. When he came to the word *metropolitano* he scratched his head over it for some time, and at last cried out, "Let us suppose it read" (in his mother-tongue, *seit pur dite*). Then, reading to the word *enigmat*, he could proceed no further, but with a vacant grin, which was intended to express facetiousness, he exclaimed in Norman French, "By St. Lewis, it is not courteous that this word is written here."

It was the duty of the prince-bishop, in consideration of his palatine rights, to raise, marshal, and lead the fencibles of the country, in case of invasion by the Scots. But, during the early part of Bishop Beaumont's reign, the northern enemy made an irruption into the district, laid great part of it in ashes, and penetrated to within twenty miles of York. King Edward II. reproached Beaumont for his supineness, but the prelate had his own irons in the fire. He was engaged in a dispute with the Archbishop of York concerning the right of visitation in Allertonshire, which involved, of course, revenue as well as dignity; and instead of husbanding his forces to resist foreign invasion, he preferred being on the alert to oppose his metropolitan whenever he came into the disputed district to maintain his alleged right and collect his dues. The King's reproaches, therefore, fell upon deaf ears, and Edward was too weak to force the haughty prelate to make any real amends. Indeed, during the whole fifteen years while Beaumont held the see, he was more occupied in providing for his own relations than in promoting those higher interests of which he was theoretically the guardian. On the accession of Edward III., he claimed in Parliament the restitution of the churches of Barnard Castle and Hartlepool, which had fallen into lay hands during the long troubles; but though he obtained a mandate for that purpose, these places were not surrendered to him. The King was well enough pleased to keep the lord bishop within moderate bounds, particularly as his whole conduct was rather that of a bold baron than a humble priest. Beaumont's ingratitude to the monks who had redeemed him from captivity was displayed by the most capricious exercise of power and the most childish expressions of enmity.

Do nothing for me," he said, "as I do nothing for you.

Pray for my death, for whilst I live you shall have no favour from me." He was only prevented by his council from seizing a large portion of their possessions. In short, his folly was equalled by his rapacity on the one hand and his prodigality on the other.

Contemporary historians tell us that "his person, being lame, was undignified." He died at Brentingham, in the diocese of York, in the month of September, 1333, and was buried before the high altar under the steps in Durham Cathedral. Over him was placed a large marble slab, whereon was his effigy engraven in brass in his episcopal habit, and round him the portraiture of the twelve apostles. The slab bore several inscriptions, the first of which was his epitaph in very barbarous Latin. The latter part may be thus translated: "Stop, passenger, and consider how great a man this was, how worthy of heaven, how just, pious, and benign, how bountiful and cheerful, and what a foe to all misers."

## The North-Country Garland of Song.

By John Stokor.

SAIR FEYL'D, HINNY.

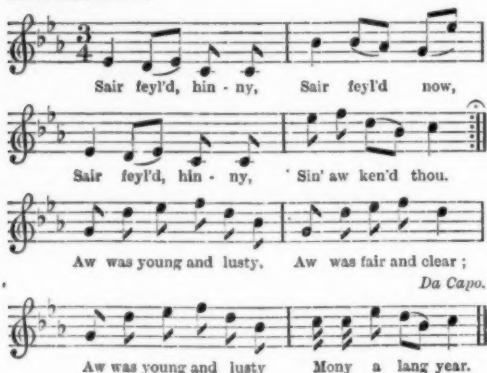


OF the ballad "Sair Feyl'd, Hanny," Sir Cuthbert Sharp, in his "Bishoprick Garland," remarks:—"This song is far North: it is admitted into Bell's 'Northern Bards,' and may possibly belong to the bishoprick, where it is well-known." Whatever doubts might have been entertained as to the birthplace of the song, there can be none respecting the music, which is a well-known Northumbrian melody often met with in old local manuscript music books, and sometimes also entitled "Ma Cannie Hanny."

Our venerable townsman, Dr. J. Collingwood Bruce, when introducing this quaint old song in his lectures on Northumbrian Ballads, speaks pathetically of it and its relation to human life. "Autumn," says he, "with all its fruitfulness, is depressing: it has as much beauty perhaps as spring, but it has none of its gaiety. And, with reference to human life, however sweet 'the fields beyond the swelling flood' may appear, the three score years and ten bring solemn thoughts with them. One of the painful incidents of advanced life is that the friends of our youth have nearly all left us; and we cannot at that period form new ones. There is something natural, therefore, and highly poetical, in the old man in his solitary musings pouring out his soul to the scarred but well-known form of the oak tree, as though it, at least, was a friend of his youth that had not left him."

The melody has been beautifully harmonized by Dr.

Armes, organist of Durham Cathedral, and was a great favourite when sung at Dr. Bruce's Lectures on Northumbrian Ballads.



Sair fey'd, hinny,  
Sair fey'd now;  
Sair fey'd hinny,  
Sin' aw ken'd thou.  
Aw was young and lusty,  
Aw was fair and clear;  
Aw was young and lusty  
Mony a lang year.  
Sair fey'd, hinny, &c.  
When aw was young and lusty  
Aw cud lowp a dyke;  
But now aw'm awd an' stiff  
Aw can hardy step a syke.  
Sair fey'd, hinny, &c.  
When aw was five an' twenty  
Aw was brave an' bauld;  
Now at five an' sixty  
Aw'm byeth stiff an' cauld.  
Sair fey'd, hinny, &c.  
Thus said the awd man  
To the oak tree;  
Sair fey'd is aw  
Sin' aw ken'd thee.  
Sair fey'd, hinny, &c.

### "The Old Highlander," North Shields.

**T**HERE has lately been removed from a position in which he has held watch and ward for half-a-century past over the ever-changing vicissitudes of the low-town portion of North Shields the figure represented in our sketch, familiarly known far and wide as the "Old Highlander." Many, many years ago, when Spencer's tobacco was known from John o'Groat's to Land's End, the figure was bought by the head of the firm, and placed in the shop in front of the manufactory at the bottom of the Wooden Bridge Bank, North Shields. It was bought at an old curiosity shop in London. The "Old Highlander" is perhaps one of the best examples of the wood carver's art to be found in many a long day's march. His life-like appearance never failed to attract

the attention of the many thousands who, in his heyday, thronged the locality which his noble presence graced, until he became almost as familiar a landmark as his ancient neighbour the "Wooden Dolly" herself. (See ante, page 161.) There he stood, complacently gazing with undisturbed serenity upon the rolling tide of human affairs for over half a century; the "mull" in one hand, and the forefinger and thumb of the other poised elegantly on its upward course to the delicate aquiline nose it never reached. Standing, as he did, at a corner that abutted right upon the most crowded thoroughfare in the town, the "Old Highlander" was frequently made the subject of practical joking. "The way to Tyne-mouth, hinny? Aye; gan alang till ye cum tiv a Heelander at a corner; he'll mebbe ax ye te tyek a snuff wiv him; if he dis, divvent refuse, an' he'll put ye reet for Tyne-mouth." In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the joke "came off."



Mr. Elsdon, who succeeded the Spencers in the tobacco trade, has removed the "Old Highlander" to his premises in Charlotte Street, where, after an eventful career in the low part, he now looks so hearty and fresh in the higher and more salubrious part of North Shields, that, as Mr. Elsdon, his custodian, puts it, "It will take money to buy him."

### The First Public Concerts in Newcastle.

**I**T is to Charles Avison—whose tombstone in St. Andrew's Churchyard has just been restored with befitting ceremony—that the people of Newcastle are indebted for the first public concerts held in the town. In 1736 a party of gentlemen in Newcastle established a series of subscription concerts, under the leadership of Mr. Avison, who had recently been appointed organist of St. Nicholas'. They were held in the Assembly Rooms in the Groat Market, commencing soon after Michaelmas, and were continued during the winter. In 1737 there was a concert on the Wednesday

of the Race Week, and again on the Wednesday of the Assize Week, the latter for the benefit of Mr. Avison, besides which the subscription concerts were repeated on the plan of the previous year. In 1738 Mr. Avison had again a benefit concert in the Assize Week, and in that year he took upon himself the sole liability of the subscription concerts. The hour of commencing, which had previously been 9 p.m., was changed to 6. The subscription was 10s. 6d. for a ticket which admitted one gentleman or two ladies to the whole series. Admission to the concerts in the Race and Assize Weeks cost 2s. 6d. each person. The following year the concerts were conducted with increased success. On the 29th of November "there was a grand performance of three celebrated pieces of vocal and instrumental music, viz.:— 'To Arms' and 'Britons, Strike Home,' the oratorio of 'Saul,' and the 'Masque of Acis.' There were twenty-six instrumental performers and the proper number of voices from Durham. There were the greatest audiences that ever were known on a like occasion in Newcastle." The concerts continued under the management of Mr. Avison till his death in 1770, and were afterwards under that of his son Edward. The latter died in 1776, and was succeeded as organist of St. Nicholas', and also as conductor of the concerts, by Mr. Mathias Hawdon. In 1783 Mr. Ebdon, of Durham, was associated in the concerts with Mr. Hawdon. In 1786 Messrs. Ebdon and Meredith occur as conductors. The latter had been for several years the principal vocal performer at these concerts. In 1790 Messrs. Charles Avison and Hawdon were joint conductors. In 1796 a grand musical festival was organized by Messrs. Meredith and Thompson, at which three oratorios were performed in St. Nicholas' Church, and concerts were given in the evening at the theatre. Mr. Thomas Thompson, the organist of St. Nicholas', the son of one of the conductors, continued the subscription concerts till 1813, when they ceased, after having been carried on for nearly ninety years from their first establishment by Mr. Avison. They were originally held in the Assembly Rooms in the Groat Market, but occasionally, when that room was otherwise engaged, in the Free Grammar School. After the building of the Assembly Rooms in Westgate Street, they were transferred thither, being held on a few occasions in the long room at the Turk's Head. After the establishment of Avison's concerts, musical performances were occasionally given by other parties, but none of an earlier date, nor, indeed, for some years after the commencement of his. These occasional concerts were generally given by performers on their route to Edinburgh. In 1763, weekly concerts were established at the Spring Gardens, head of Gallowgate, and were held for several years on Thursday evenings during the months of May, June, July, and August. It is stated that William Shield, the composer, was at one time connected with these entertainments.

## Oriel Window at Kenton.



DRAWING is here given of a fine oriel window which is to be seen in the west wall of a farm-house at Kenton, near Newcastle, now occupied by Mr. Potts. It is a relic of a



far older building than the present homestead, but has been built into it and left as a relic. Local historians do not refer to the window, which bears the date 1650.

## Mr. W. S. B. Woolhouse.



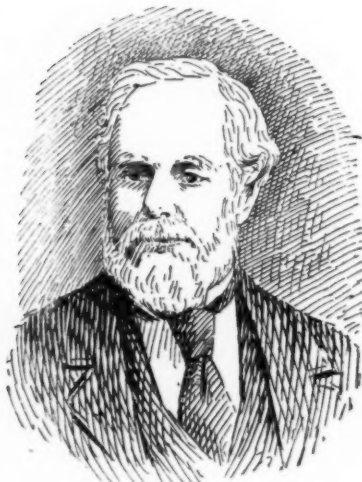
ORTHUMBERLAND has long been famous for having produced eminent mathematicians. Not the least distinguished of these is the gentleman whose portrait is here printed.

Mr. Wesley S. B. Woolhouse, now a well-known actuary, was born at North Shields on May 6, 1809, and received his education under the Rev. William Leitch, of that town. Young Woolhouse was remarkable for his precocity. It is recorded that when he was only thirteen years of age he won a mathematical prize offered by the

*Ladies' Diary*, many of the competitors being men of mature years. But he soon manifested greater power to deal with abstruse subjects. At the age of nineteen he published a work on geometry in two dimensions, without ever having seen a treatise on the subject, thus rivalling the exploit of Pascal.

While still very young, Mr. Woolhouse became connected with the office of the "Nautical Almanac." Here he constructed new formulæ by which the tables were calculated with greater accuracy and speed. His discoveries and improvements in astronomy were generally published as appendices to the "Nautical Almanac." At a later period, when he had entered upon his profession as an actuary, he published some most valuable papers, among which may be mentioned one on eclipses, and another on Jupiter's satellites.

But perhaps Mr. Woolhouse's most remarkable intellectual feat was the solution of a problem in probabilities in connection with the great struggle



W. S. B. Woolhouse.

for the Ten Hours Bill. The question was how far the factory girls had to run in a day when attending the "mules," and trotting backward and forward to tie the threads, which were constantly breaking. Mr. Woolhouse was engaged by Lord Ashley (afterwards Lord Shaftesbury) to go down to Manchester and obtain the necessary data for the solution of the problem. He performed the journey, obtained the data, solved the problem (which required the highest application of the calculus), wrote his report, and sent it off by the same evening's post. Mr. Woolhouse's calculation showed that the thread-girl ran upwards of thirty miles each working day!

A remarkable paper by Mr. Woolhouse, "On the Deposit of Submarine Cables," was inserted in the *Philosophical Magazine* for May, 1860. About two years before, in the same scientific periodical, the subject had been treated by the late Astronomer Royal, Sir George Biddle Airey (also a native of Northumberland), who had graphically described the problem as one "of a most abstruse nature, far exceeding the complication of the motions of a planetary body through the heavens, and probably not even solvable." Immediately after Mr. Woolhouse's paper was published, the author received a complimentary letter from the Astronomer Royal, stating that he had "completely mastered a rather difficult investigation."

Mr. Woolhouse has contributed numerous valuable articles to the *Journal of the Institute of Actuaries*, and is known as the author of a work on the Differential Calculus, now used as a text book in many colleges. He is also the author of a "Treatise on Musical Intervals, Temperament, and the Elementary Principles of Music," of which a second edition was published in 1888. Amongst his possessions is a collection of violins, which is said to be one of the rarest in England.

## Ogle Castle.

**K**ILL that remains of Ogle Castle is incorporated with a manor house of the time of Charles I., which is situate about seven miles south-west of Morpeth. There is little in the external appearance of the place (as seen in our engraving) suggestive of a quadrangular building, with towers at the four corners, surrounded by a moat; but a plate which is inserted in the west wall bears the following inscription:—"Ogle Castle, for the building whereof a patent was granted anno 15th Edward III., Anno Domini 134 which, together with the barony of Ogle, now belongs to the Ogles of Kirkley, who are descended from the third Baron Ogle." A castle of considerable dimensions occupied the site of the present building; besides, at the west end, there are remains of the walls and moat, and within the edifice is part of a tower. What was once the old kitchen fireplace may be seen in the dining-room.

According to Froissart, John de Coupland, with eight companions, after the battle of Neville's Cross, rode off with David, King of Scotland, and, carrying him 25 miles, arrived about vespers at Ogle. For this exploit Coupland received many rewards from the English King, who was then in France with his son, the Black Prince, fighting the battle of Cressy.

Mackenzie's "Northumberland," second edition, published in 1825, contains the following note on the subject of Ogle Castle:—"It was thus described forty years ago:—'Part of a circular tower adjoins to the east of the



present farm-house, which stands on the scite of the castle: the windows of this tower are very small, topped with pointed arches, the whole remains carrying a countenance of very remote antiquity. The ground wherein the chief part of the castle has stood is square, guarded by a double moat, divided by a breast-work of mason-work. The walls are quite levelled with the ground, and the moat almost grown up."

The Ogles were seated here before the Conquest; and so proud were the members of the family of their long ancestry that when a Milburn in 1583 protested that the Dacres were of as good blood as the Ogles, "four of the Ogles set upon him and slew him." Thomas de Ogle, adhering to the barons in their rebellion against Henry III., his estate was seized by the Crown; and it was not returned to the family till the reign of Edward III., who, in 1340, granted license to Sir Robert Ogle to convert his manor house into a castle, and to have free warren through all his demesne. Robert was high bailiff of the dominion of Tynedale. His brother, Sir Alexander Ogle, knight, was slain in the defence of the Castle of Berwick-upon-Tweed, of which he was captain. The lordship of Ogle was possessed by the family down to the year 1809, when Ogle was sold to Thomas Brown, a London shipowner, for £180,000.

About a couple of miles south-west of Ogle is Milbourne Grange, which is associated with the early history of Nonconformity in the North. In August, 1684, Mr. Robert Leaver, who had preached at a conventicle under George Horsley (a supporter of the ejected ministers)

at the above place, was apprehended at an inn in Gateshead. Many of the Nonconformists in this locality, having conscientious objections to the use of the ritual for the burial of the dead, preferred to be buried in unconsecrated ground. The grave of George Horsley is in a plantation not far from the site of the old hall.

## Notes and Commentaries.

### EMBLETON BOG.

Dr. Bruce stated at a recent meeting of the Society of Antiquaries that a piece of land near Newham Station, on the North-Eastern Railway, is marked in the ordnance map as "Embleton Bog," that when the railway was being made a locomotive left the line there, and that it "not only disappeared in the morass, but nothing has been seen of it from that day to this." I have been in conversation with an old gentleman who is probably the only surviving witness of the incident mentioned by Dr. Bruce. Within five minutes before the accident, my informant, along with another man, was engaged in cutting a ditch at the side of the railway—the very spot where the locomotive left the line. This occurred either in 1846 or 1847, and the engine, which was running between Berwick and Chathill, was No. 104, built by Stephenson. The driver's name was Mann, and the fireman, who was killed, was called White. Only one passenger was injured. This



passenger was the late Isaac Milburn, the bonesetter. Dr. Bruce was in error when he said that "nothing had been seen of the engine from that day to this." My friend states that, after hard work, it was extracted from the bog within two weeks of the occurrence.

CHRISTIAN DECEMBER, Newcastle.

#### SMOLLETT AND AKENSIDE.

Peregrine Pickle, the hero of "The Adventures of Peregrine Pickle," a novel by Smollett, is a caricature of Mark Akenside. Disraeli, in his "Calamities of Authors," says:—"From a pique with Akenside, on some reflections against Scotland, Smollett exhibited a man of great genius and virtue as a most ludicrous personage; and who could discriminate, in the ridiculous physician in Peregrine Pickle, what is real, and what is fictitious? Of Akenside few particulars have been recorded, for the friend who best knew him was of so cold a temper in regard to the publick, that he has not, in his account, revealed a solitary feature in the character of the poet. Yet Akenside's mind and manners were of a fine romantic cast, drawn from the moulds of classical antiquity. Such was the charm of his converse, that he has even heated the cold and sluggish mind of Sir John Hawkins, who has, with unusual vivacity, described a day spent with him in the country. As I have mentioned the fictitious physician in 'Peregrine Pickle,' let the same page show the real one. I shall transcribe Sir John's forgotten words—omitting his 'neat and elegant dinner.' 'Akenside's conversation was of the most delightful kind, learned, instructive, and, without any affectation of wit, cheerful and entertaining. One of the pleasantest days of my life I passed with him, Mr. Dyson, and another friend, at Putney—where the enlivening sunshine of a summer's day and the view of an unclouded sky were the least of our gratifications. In perfect good humour with himself and all about him, he seemed to feel a joy that he lived, and poured out his gratulations to the great Dispenser of all felicity, in expressions that Plato himself might have uttered on such an occasion. In conversations with select friends, and those whose studies had been nearly the same with his own, it was an usual thing with him, in libations to the memory of eminent men among the antients, to bring their characters into view, and expatiate on those particulars of their lives that had rendered them famous.' Observe the arts of the ridiculer! He seized on the romantic enthusiasm of Akenside, and turned it to the cookery of the Antients!"

C. H. STEPHENSON, Southport.

#### A WEARDALE HOLY-STONE.

I remember being, in the year 1874, in a farm-house not far from St. John's Chapel, Weardale, when, on holy-stones being mentioned as charms, a member of the family forthwith took down from a nail in a joist in the kitchen two holy-stones, one of which is shown in the accompanying illustration. They had then almost been forgotten,

but the goodwife said that her husband, then dead, prized them very much, and was very particular about having



them replaced in the old spot near the door, whenever they had been taken down for the spring or summer cleaning. The farmer's wife, then in her 77th year, had known one of the stones almost all her life, and that shown in the illustration had been picked up by her late husband about the year 1850. It was found

about four feet beneath the bed of Middlehope Burn, a tributary of the Wear, and was highly valued as a charm against witchcraft and otherwise as a protection to the owner against evil spirits. It appears to be a manufactured article of about two inches long, rather more than an inch thick and an inch broad. The front forms a rude human face of the gargoyle stamp; but the back shows evidence of the charm having been broken off, conveying the idea of a rudely formed idol in its complete form. The front and sides of the face, and even the hole, are enamelled or covered with a sort of yellow glaze, showing fire to have been used in its manufacture. This charm, known by the name of holy-stone, lucky-stone, self-bored-stone, adder-stone, hag-stone, witch-stone, holed-stone, and so on, was once exceedingly common in the dales of the North of England, and small holy-stones were sometimes worn about the person.

W. M. EGGLSTONE, Stanhope.

#### North-Country Wit & Humour.

##### PROMOTION.

Two old women met in the City Road. "Aa's glad to see ye, Mary," observed the one, "for aa heor that yor son Jimmy, that's in the Pioneers, is gettin' promoted." "Aye," replied the other, "he's been promoted to be a corporal or a colonel—aa divvent knaa which!"

##### A TRAMP'S TRICK.

Late one night during cold weather a man, who had been dining "not wisely, but too well," was leaning against a lamp post. A tramp came up and gazed for a moment at the inebriate. "Hey, man," hiccupped the latter, "aa's in a bonny plight." "What's the matter?" "Wey, if aa leave lowse, aa'll faall doon; and if aa stop here aa'll be run in by the pollis." "Well, then," said the tramp, "aa'll hev yor hat." And he had it.

## SPECTACLES.

The other day two men were having a "bit crack" in a public-house in Walker when one of them observed:—"Jack, dis thoo knaa what aa did yestorday?" "Aa divvent," said Jack. "Wey, aa bowt the wife a pair o' spectacles." "Thoo wes a fyul; she'll elwis be yebble noo te see when thoo gets over much te drink!"

## MR. GLADSTONE'S CHIPS.

The other day an ardent admirer of the "Grand Old Man" was showing his wife some chips he had gathered from a tree felled by the ex-Premier. The wife, who cared more for religion than politics, addressed her husband thus:—"Aye, a lot of good them things will de ye! If ye paid as much attention to yor Bible as ye de te Gladstone, ye might hev a chance of ganning tiv a plyce whor yor chips waddent born!"

## FOOD FOR OARSMEN.

After Chambers, the famous Tyneside oarsman, had defeated an opponent on the Thames, he made his appearance on the stage of a metropolitan music hall, where he addressed the audience. He was followed by the vanquished Londoner, who, in a very defiant style, stated that he did not consider that he was beaten, and would post a five-pound note and pull the race over again. One of Chambers's supporters at once shouted out:—"Whaat d'ye knaa about rowing? Ye feed upon nowt but cockles and parrinkles. Come doon te Newcastle and train alongside o' Bob, an' he'll larn ye te eat scrap iron!"

## A PICTURE SALE.

Some years ago, a local auctioneer, who had imbibed more than was good for him, was offering some pictures for sale. After descanting upon their beauties, he turned to an oil painting, and said:—"This, ladies and gentlemen, is an excellent drawing of mountains and dogs." Then, after a few bids had been made, he requested his assistant to come up, observing:—"John, take this fine work of art round the room, and point out to the company which are the mountains and which are the dogs!"

## THE PITMAN AND THE LOCAL PREACHER.

One Sunday morning, at a colliery village, not far from South Shields, a group of pitmen were standing discussing various questions. A young local preacher was passing at the time, and, no doubt thinking it a grand opportunity, commenced to distribute tracts very freely. Addressing himself to one of the most prominent of the pitmen, he said: "I should like to see you come to chapel this morning." Pitman: "Wey, lad, aa hev ne desire te cum te chapel." This answer caused a long discussion, wherein the preacher seemed not to have any the best of it. At last he put the following question, which he appeared to think would completely floor the pitman:—"What comes after death?" Pitman: "Wey, man, onnybody can ansor that. Monny a time a good row over the few bits o' sad claes an' other things that might be left!"

## North-Country Obituaries.

Mr. Thomas Trewwhitt Wharrier, who for twenty years held the office of surveyor to the Walker Local Board, and also served as a member of the same body, besides being people's warden at Christ Church for a considerable period, died on the 11th of May, at the age of 66.

The Rev. Mortimer L. J. Mortimer, vicar of North Stockton, died suddenly on the 20th of May. The deceased, who was between 50 and 60 years of age, came from Tranmere, near Birkenhead, in 1886.

On the 22nd of May, Mr. W. L. Dobinson, who had represented the Bishopwearmouth Ward on the Sunderland Board of Guardians for 15 years, died at his residence, The Esplanade West, Sunderland. The deceased was 55 years of age.

On the same day, Mr. Thomas Davison, long a member of the firm of Pattinson, Davison, and Co., of the Hexham Ironworks, died at his residence in that town, in the 77th year of his age.

At a meeting of the Chester-le-Street Guardians, on the 22nd of May, it was reported that Mr. Thomas Wilson, of Washington, a conscientious and painstaking member of the Board, had died on the previous day.

The death was announced, on the 23rd of May, of Mr. William Wilson, who for about fifty years had carried on an extensive hatting and furrier's business in Newcastle. He was 73 years of age.

Mr. John Atkinson, who had long taken a prominent part in the co-operative and other social movements, died at Wallsend on the 25th of May.

Mr. Robert A. Allan, chief magistrate of Eyemouth, died on the 27th of May.

Mr. David M'Nab, house painter, &c., and a prominent politician, died at Monkwearmouth on the 27th of May.

On the 29th of May, the death was announced from Haswell of Mr. Ralph Dove, one of the oldest carriers in the district. The deceased, who was 72 years of age, had travelled twice weekly between Newcastle and Haswell for the long period of 45 years.

The death was reported on the same day, from Dunedin, New Zealand, of Commander Patrick Johnston, of the Royal Navy, only son of the late Dr. Johnston, of Berwick-on-Tweed, the founder of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Field Club. The deceased gentleman was in the 65th year of his age.

The death occurred on the 29th of May, after a brief illness, of Mr. Thomas T. Clarke, formerly Borough Accountant for Tynemouth. On the occasion of his retirement from that office, which took place a little over two years ago, a complimentary dinner was given in his honour, and he was the recipient of a handsome testimonial, subscribed for by the Mayor and members of the Corporation and other prominent local gentlemen. A year later he was chosen to represent the Collingwood Ward in the Town Council. Mr. Clarke took an earnest interest in the old Mechanics' Institute, as he did in all the educational institutions of the borough, and up to the time of his illness he was one of the most active of members of the Free Library Committee. He was secretary of the Master Mariners' Asylum, president of the Tynemouth Art Club, and auditor of the River Tyne Commission. The deceased, who was a native of Whittingham, was about 60 years of age.

On the 30th of May the death was announced as having taken place at Alnwick a few days previously, of Mr. John Crisp, a well-known Northumbrian agriculturist and shorthorn breeder. The deceased, as manager to Mr. A. H. Browne, first at Bank House, and afterwards at Doxford, selected the cattle which formed the beginning of the famous Doxford herd.

On the 29th of May, Mr. Alfred Legge, who was 65 years of age, died at his residence in Alexandra Place, Newcastle. Mr. Legge was at one time a partner with Mr. George William Cram, who practised law in the city for many years.

Another local solicitor, Mr. Robert Dickinson, died at his residence, Rose Villa, Gosforth, on the 30th of May. Mr. Dickinson, who was 52 years of age, was connected with various local building societies, and for a period acted as deputy-coroner for South Northumberland.

On the 1st of June, there died at the house of his son-in-law, Mr. William Watson, of Whiteridge Row, Seaton Delaval, Mr. Alexander Wilson, one of the oldest inhabitants of that district. He was born at Berwick in 1798, and was consequently in his 92nd year. He was originally a sailor, but afterwards followed land occupations. The deceased was engaged on the screens at Hartley Colliery when the memorable catastrophe took place in 1862, and had a narrow escape from death on that occasion.

Mr. William Curry, aged 54, a noted cattle breeder, agriculturist, and land agent, well-known in the North of England, died rather suddenly at Hurworth on the 5th of June. Mr. Curry was a leading member of the Darlington Chamber of Agriculture.

## Record of Events.

### North-Country Occurrences.

#### MAY.

11.—The steamer *Cleanthes*, of Sunderland, bound to the Tyne from Flushing, grounded, during thick weather, on the rocks off Souter Point, and became a wreck; but the whole of the crew were saved.

—Sarah Inns, or Merryweather, 19 years of age, was murdered in a lodging-house at Stockton, and a young man named Frederick Terry, who had been spending the night with her, was at once arrested on the charge. The Coroner's jury found a verdict of wilful murder against Terry, who, on the 15th, was committed by the magistrates for trial on that charge.

—The body of Mr. Robert Gibson, the unfortunate man who was drowned between Holy Island and the mainland on Easter Tuesday, was washed ashore at Bamburgh. The remains were removed to Newcastle, and were interred in Jesmond Cemetery. (See *ante*, p. 240.)

12.—It was announced that Count Herbert Bismarck, son of Prince Bismarck, the ex-Chancellor of the German Empire, had arrived on a visit to Wynyard Park as the guest of the Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry.

13.—The Rev. Dixon Dixon-Brown, of Unthank, was appointed chairman of the Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee.

—Mr. R. O. Lamb and Mr. L. W. Adamson, representing the North of England United Coal Trade

Association, were examined before the Royal Commission on Mining Royalties at Westminster.

—Miss Eleanor Burnett gave a vocal recital in the new Assembly Rooms, Barras Bridge, Newcastle. There was a large and fashionable audience, and the concert was in every way a success. Miss Burnett is a daughter of Mr. James Burnett, chemical manufacturer, Bill Quay, near Gateshead. She received her musical education under the best connoisseurs in Italy.



—Dr. Westcott, the new Bishop of Durham, proceeded to Windsor to do homage to the Queen on his appointment to the See. On the following day his lordship, accompanied by Mrs. Westcott, entered the diocese, and at Darlington was presented with addresses of congratulation and welcome by the Mayor and Corporation, and by the local clergy. He afterwards journeyed to the episcopal residence at Bishop Auckland, where he was also cordially received. On Ascension Day (May 15), the enthronement of the Bishop took place, in presence of a crowded congregation, in Durham Cathedral. The oaths of allegiance and for preserving privileges having been taken by Dr. Westcott, Dr. Lake, the Dean of Durham, placed him on the episcopal chair, and formally inducted him into the Bishopric. The newly-enthroned Bishop afterwards preached an eloquent sermon, from the 25th verse of the 5th chapter of St. Paul's First Epistle to the Thessalonians. The ceremony was very imposing and impressive. (See *ante*, page 237.)

14.—The ceremony of turning the sewage of the South Gosforth Local Board district into the sewer passing down the side of the Ouseburn was performed at the new sewer near the sewage tanks, Gosforth, by Mr. S. H. Farrer, chairman of the Gosforth Local Board.

—Miss Donkin, daughter of Mr. R. S. Donkin, M.P., opened a Northern Wheeleries, Cycling, and Athletic Exhibition in the Tyne-mouth Aquarium.

15.—A little girl, named Catherine Garven, four years old, was knocked down and killed by a passing tramcar in Scotswood Road, Newcastle.

—At the annual meeting of the Distribution Committee of the Newcastle Hospital Fund, it was resolved that a sum of £400 be awarded to the Infirmary as a special gift, and that £1,600 be distributed as a free gift among the medical charities on the committee's list.

16.—A meeting, called by the Mayor in response to a requisition signed by upwards of 400 inhabitants, was held in the Town Hall, Newcastle, for the consideration of the compensation clauses of the Government Licensing Bill at present before Parliament. His Worship (Mr. Thomas Bell) presided, and a resolution condemnatory of this feature of the measure was ultimately carried by a large majority. At a conference and public meeting held under the auspices of the North of England Temperance League, in Newcastle, on the 27th, a similar resolution was adopted.

—A Convalescent Home, consisting of a cottage,



kindly offered rent-free by Mrs. Williams, a well-known philanthropic lady, was formally opened at Grange-over-Sands for the North-Eastern Counties Friendly Societies.

17.—The Rev. J. C. Weir, pastor of the Ellison Street Presbyterian Church, Jarrow, dedicated a memorial window which Mr. Alderman Price had caused to be put in that place of worship in memory of his wife, son, and daughter.

—Five gentlemen were elected to constitute a newly-formed School Board for the parish of Washington, in the county of Durham. The successful candidates were—Messrs. Robert Fowler, viewier, Washington Colliery; Henry Robinson, colliery manager, North Biddick; Joseph Cook, ironfounder, North Biddick Hall; the Rev. Father Poupert, Washington; and Mr. John Robinson Dixon, grocer, Washington Village.

—The men employed in the bill-posting business in Newcastle and Gateshead came out on strike for an advance of 3s. per week, and also for the twelve o'clock day on Saturdays.

—Mr. Thomas Foggitt, a well-known Stockton gentleman, who was engaged in the musical profession, was knocked down by a goods train and killed near Eaglescliffe Junction, on the North-Eastern Railway.

—Mrs. Lane, wife of Mr. C. S. Lane, timber merchant, of Newstead House, Grange Road, West Hartlepool, fell over an unprotected part of the pier and was drowned.

—It was announced that Mr. H. M. Stanley, the African explorer, was about to marry Miss Dorothy Tennant, daughter of the late Charles Tennant, of Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, London. Miss Tennant is not unknown in Newcastle. Two or three years ago she paid a visit to Mr. Burt, M.P. During her visit to Newcastle, Mr. Burt told his guest that one of his little girls had a decided preference for a walk with her father alone—"Only you and me and ze umbrella." The story so struck Miss Tennant's fancy that she made a pretty little drawing in black and white of the party—the father, the child, and "ze umbrella." And this drawing now occupies an honoured place in the hon. member's house. A sister of Miss Tennant's is married to a gentleman who is also not unknown in Newcastle—Mr. F. W. H. Myers, noted for his interest in psychical researches, who has once or twice lectured in the Tyne Theatre.

19.—Herr Bernhard Stavenhagen, an eminent pianist, gave a pianoforte recital in the New Assembly Rooms, Barras Bridge, Newcastle. There was a large audience, and the playing, which was that of a consummate artist,

elicited unqualified expressions of admiration. Herr Stavenhagen, who was born at Greiz, the capital of the small principality of Reuss, began his musical education at a very early age. After studying under Professor Rudorff, second director of the Berlin Academy, and Keil, the famous theory professor, he gained the Mendelssohn prize at the age of eighteen. For two

or three years afterwards he studied alone, and was then

introduced to Liszt, with whom he remained as a pupil until the death of the celebrated abbe.

—Mr. T. H. Faber, solicitor, was appointed clerk to the South Stockton justices.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Hogan, who had reached the extraordinarily advanced age of 102 years, died in the house of the Little Sisters of the Poor at High Barnes, Sunderland.

20.—Mr. J. W. Bowman, B.A., late of Lancashire Independent College, was ordained to the pastorate of West Clayton Street Congregational Church, Newcastle, in succession to the Rev. Walter Lenwood.

—At a meeting at Newcastle of the iron and steel employers and delegates of the North of England iron and steel district, the representatives of the men agreed to accept a reduction of 10 per cent., to take effect from June 2nd.

—Mr. W. Y. Campbell, honorary vice-president of the Witwatersrandt Chamber of Mines, Transvaal, lectured in the Northumberland Hall, Newcastle, under the auspices of the Tyneside Geographical Society, on "Transvaal Affairs, and the Development of British Interests in that Region."

—The marriage of the Rev. J. H. Jowett, M.A., minister of St. James's Congregational Church, Newcastle, to Miss Lizzie A. Wimpenny, youngest daughter of Mr. F. Wimpenny, of Barnard Castle, was celebrated at the Congregational Church at the latter place.

—In the list of the Queen's birthday honours, issued to-night, appeared the name of Mr. William Gray, of West Hartlepool, on whom her Majesty had conferred a knighthood. The new knight is a son of the late Mr. Matthew Gray, of Blyth. He was educated at Dr. Bruce's school in Newcastle. Mr. Gray first followed the business of his father, that of a draper, and afterwards commenced business for himself at Hartlepool. About twenty-eight years ago he joined the Denton Shipbuilding Company in that town, and eventually became the sole partner, the business being subsequently transferred to West Hartlepool. During his residence at Hartlepool, Mr. Gray was twice Mayor; and on the incorporation of West Hartlepool, in 1887, he was chosen as its first Mayor. The new knight is, in religion, a Presbyterian, and his munificent gift of £10,000 for church-debt extinction in the Darlington Presbytery was the subject of a special vote of thanks at the Synod at Liverpool. (For portrait of Mr. William Gray, see vol. for 1889, page 280).

—Mr. T. Burt, M.P., Mr. W. Crawford, M.P., and Mr. C. Fenwick, M.P., were present at an International Miners' Congress at Jolimont, Brussels, Belgium, the proceedings in connection with which were opened by Mr. Burt.

21.—A conference on the subject of allotment culture and small fruit farms was held in the Vegetarian Restaurant, Newcastle, under the presidency of Mr. W. C. Gibson. It was resolved that an association be formed for the purpose of disseminating knowledge relative to *petite culture* in all its branches, and the promotion of combined effort in connection therewith.

—The Rev. Walter Walsh, of Ryehill Baptist Church, was presented with a safety bicycle by the Ryehill Guild C. C., of which he is president.

22.—It was stated that a duck, in the possession of Mr. William Forster, platelayer, Ryton Station, had hatched duckling with four legs, three feet, and two backs.



23.—Mr. H. H. Emmerson, the eminent local artist, opened a Shakspearian and Dramatic Art Gallery, into which Mr. T. B. Appleby, the lessee and manager of the Theatre Royal, South Shields, had converted the corridor of that establishment.

—The Earl Ravensworth was elected president of the Royal Agricultural Society.

—The Royal assent was given by commission to the Tyne Improvement Bill.

—Dr. George Macdonald, the eminent novelist, lectured on "Hamlet" in the Town Hall, Gateshead.

—At a meeting of the ratepayers of Westgate township, Newcastle, Mr. Joseph Forster tendered his resignation as assistant-overseer, and the resignation was accepted.

—A conference was held in Bishop Cosin's Library, Durham, to discuss the movement called "Churchmen in Council," which is established for urging upon those in whom the authority of the Church is vested the need of giving a clear and unmistakable definition of the ritual directions of the Prayer Book.

—The King of the Belgians passed through Newcastle, en route for Balmoral, on a visit to Queen Victoria.

—An advance of 3d. per ton to puddlers, and an increase of 2½ per cent. to all other forge and mill workmen, were found to have accrued under the sliding-scale arrangement in the iron and steel trades of the North of England.

—The house carpenters and joiners in the Tyne district accepted an advance of a half-penny per hour.

—Mr. T. M. Healy, M.P., delivered a political address in the Town Hall, Newcastle, under the auspices of the Irish Institute.

24.—It was announced that a skeleton of the great grey seal, a large specimen of the Greenland shark, a full-grown male of the Chacma baboon, a young alligator, and three boas had been added to the Natural History Museum at Barras Bridge, Newcastle.

—A little girl, named Mears, eight years of age, fell over the cliff at Marsden and was killed.

—An exhibition of photographs by Mr. J. P. Gibson, of Northumberland scenery and antiquities, was opened in the Town Hall, Hexham.

—The ninth annual session of the Northern Counties' Christian Lay Churches Confederation was opened at Spennymoor by Mr. James Mowitt, of Newcastle.

—A man named Charles Walker was accidentally killed by falling from his seat on what was known as "the corkscrew," or "spiral switchback," at the "hoppings" in the Haymarket, Newcastle.

25.—A handsome memorial window to the memory of the late Dr. Rutherford was unveiled in Bath Lane Church, Newcastle.

—Mr. J. T. Owen, formerly a journalist, was ordained to the pastorate of Enon Baptist Chapel, Monkwearmouth.

26.—The Rev. Hugh Rose Rae was inducted into the pastorate of Ryton Congregational Church.

—The Rev. Dr. Lacy, Roman Catholic Bishop of Middlesbrough, laid the foundation stone of a new church in Westbury Street, South Stockton.

—A conference in connection with the Northern Association of Baptist Churches was opened in Westgate Road Baptist Chapel, Newcastle, Mr. G. W. Bartlett, of Darlington, being Moderator.

—The season of the Boys' Seaside Camp was opened at Hartley.

—The members of the Tyneside Geographical Society, accompanied by several friends, paid a visit to Chillingham to see the famous herd of wild cattle, on the invitation of the Earl of Tankerville, one of the vice-presidents of the society. (For description of Chillingham Castle and Cattle, with view of the Castle, see vol. for 1887, pp. 272-273.)

—An unusually large number of holiday-makers visited Tynemouth and other popular resorts, on the occasion of Whit-Monday.

27.—The new Union Congregational Church at Sunderland was opened by the Rev. Dr. Allon, of London.

28.—The students of Durham University presented an address of welcome to the Bishop of the diocese at Bishop Cosin's Library, Durham. There was a very large attendance, and Dr. Westcott met with a very enthusiastic reception. On the same day his lordship held his first confirmation in Durham Cathedral.

—A new tombstone erected to the memory of the Novocastrian musician and composer of the last century, Charles Avison, was unveiled by Judge Seymour, in St. Andrew's Churchyard, Newcastle. The stone bore the following inscription:—

H.R.I.P.  
CAR. AVISON } denati { 9 Maii, 1770 } AO. æ LX.  
CATH. UXOR } { 14 Oct., 1766 } LIII.  
Simul cum filia  
JANA conjugi mostissimo  
ROBERTO PAGE  
immature erepta  
14 Julii MDCCLXXXIII  
Annos Nata XXVIII.  
CHARLES AVISON, late organist of St. Nicholas' Church,  
son of the said  
CHAS. and CATHERE. died 6 April, 1793.  
Aged 43 years.  
Hic Situs est  
ROBERTUS PAGE, ARMIGER,  
Vir virtute et rectefactis insignis  
Ditissime languescens morti succubuit.  
A.D. 1807. Ætatisque 69.  
CHARLES AVISON, son of the above CHARLES AVISON,  
organist, departed this life Feby. 19, 1816.  
Aged 25 years.  
Restored by Public Subscription 1890.  
In memory of  
CHARLES AVISON,  
Musical Composer and Organist of this City.  
"On the list  
Of worthies who by help of pipe or wire,  
Expressed in sound rough rage or soft desire,  
Thou whilom of Newcastle organist."

—Brouning.

Dr. Bruce, Dr. Hodgkin, and the Vicar of Newcastle also spoke on the occasion. (See vol. for 1888, p. 109; a portrait of Avison will be found in vol. for 1889, p. 570.)

—The first meeting of the season of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club took place at Beanley, Northumberland, and was marked by the presentation of a handsome testimonial, consisting of a cheque for a sum of over £400, to the secretary of the society, Dr. James Hardy, of Oldcambus, Cockburnspath.

—The dispute between the billposters of Newcastle and their employers was amicably settled by arbitration through Mr. J. Baxter Ellis, the terms of arrangement including a week of 53 hours.

—A man named Carlisle, who had arrived in Alnwick with a peep-show a few days previously, completed a 48 hours' walk, without sleep, between Alnwick and Newton-on-the-Moor, the number of miles accomplished being 148.

—A party of excursionists, including the Rev. J. S. Rae, who had proceeded from Sunderland, arrived at St.

Kilda, in the Hebrides, with a view of taking part in the marriage of Annie Ferguson, popularly known as the "Queen of St. Kilda," to John Gillies, but the expected wedding did not take place. The Wearside visitors were the bearers of many strange presents, among which was a gold ring—an article hitherto unknown in the island.

29.—A handsome new organ was opened in Jesmond Presbyterian Church, Newcastle.

—It was intimated that the Lord Chancellor had appointed the following gentlemen to the Commission of the Peace for Newcastle:—Messrs. Thomas Bell (Mayor), William Sutton, William Mathwin Angus, James Edward Woods, Utrick Alexander Ritson, Edward Eccles, Robert Thomas Jackson Usher, William Dickinson, and Richard Henry Holmes.

30.—The Rev. Canon Tristram was re-elected president of the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club.

—A letter was received from the Rev. Canon Trotter, Vicar of Alnwick, dated Trinidad, Rogation Day, 1890, to his parishioners, intimating his determination to take up a permanent residence in the West Indies, where he went with Mrs. Trotter nearly twelve months ago.

31.—Band performances of a more than usually attractive character were given in the Bull Park Recreation Ground, Newcastle. The bands which took part in the evening entertainment were the 1st Newcastle Royal Engineers, under Mr. W. Ure, and the Royal Exhibition Band, under the direction of Mr. John H. Amers. The latter body of instrumentalists has been performing at the Leeds Exhibition to the delight of large crowds. Mr. Amers remembers the time when the only band in Newcastle was that of the Yeomanry Cavalry, mounted and dismounted, under the direction of Mr. Matthew Liddle, the head of a Newcastle musical family. Young Amers played in this band when a boy. His father was the band sergeant for a period of thirty years, and to him he owes his musical education.



JOHN H. AMERS.

—A horse procession was held, for the first time, at Berwick-on-Tweed.

—On the occasion of the twentieth annual meeting of the institution, Mr. Alderman T. P. Barkas announced his retirement from the responsible management of the Central Exchange Newsroom and Art Gallery, Newcastle.

—Dr. and Mrs. R. S. Watson held a garden party at Bensham Grove, Gateshead, where a numerous company of ladies and gentlemen assembled to meet three representatives of the Indian National Congress—Mr. A. H. Hume, general secretary of the Congress; Mr. Mudholka; and Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee, B.A., principal of the Ripon College at Calcutta, municipal commissioner, and editor of *The Bengalee*. On the 2nd of June, a public meeting in furtherance of the same object was held in Ginnett's Circus, Bath Road, Newcastle, under the presidency of the Mayor (Mr. T. Bell).

—On the occasion of the first anniversary of the Choppington District Liberal Club, a banquet was held at the

Queen's Head Hotel, Choppington Guide Post. Mr. R. H. Wheatley presided. Amongst those present were Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P., Mr. Burt, M.P., Mr. Fenwick, M.P., and others.

# JUNE.

1.—The new Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St. Oswin, Front Street, Tynemouth, was opened by the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle.

2.—The men employed at Monkwearmouth Colliery came out on strike for a seven hours' shift.

—A meeting to protest against betting and gambling was held at Houghton-le-Spring, under the presidency of the Hon. and Rev. Canon Grey, and among the speakers was the Bishop of Durham.

3.—A sturgeon, weighing 14 stones, was captured in the river Tees by Mr. Goldie, at Yarm.

4.—The Rev. John Hallam, of Newcastle, was elected President of the Primitive Methodist Conference, which was opened at Sunderland.

—The screw-steamer Rangatira, the largest vessel ever built at the port, having a dead-weight carrying capacity of 6,250 tons, was launched from the shipbuilding yard of Messrs. W. Gray and Co., West Hartlepool.

—The Board of Trade, in pursuance of applications from the County Councils in the localities, gave official notice of their intention to create a sea fisheries district, to comprise the whole of the seaboard of Durham, Yorkshire, and Lincolnshire, and to be known as the North-Eastern Sea Fisheries District.

—Mr. James Annan, aged 54, a lithographic artist, carrying on business in Grey Street, Newcastle, was drowned from a boat off Cullercoats.

—The Rev. A. M. Norman, M.A., D.C.L., F.R.S., &c., rector of Burnmoor, near Fence Houses, and honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

5.—The annual survey of the Whickham parish boundaries was made by the members of the Local Board.

—Mrs. Schoefield, wife of the Mayor of Morpeth, gave birth to a daughter; such an event having occurred only once previously, viz., in 1873, in the family of a Mayor of that borough.

—Miss Sophie Wyld Stobart, second daughter of Mr. William Stobart, of Pepper Arden Hall, near Northallerton, was married to Mr. Harry Huxley, youngest son of Professor Huxley.

6.—Mr. Thomas John Des Forges was elected assistant-overseer of Westgate township, Newcastle.

7.—It was announced that the will of the late Mr. Mason Watson, of Newcastle, land agent, had been proved; the gross value of the estate being £2,790 2s. 9½d., and the net value £1,385 11s. 6d.

—The twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Northumberland and Durham Miners' Permanent Relief Fund was held at Durham.

9.—The consecration ceremony in connection with the new church of St. Columba, Southwick, Sunderland, which, owing to the death of the late Bishop of Durham, has been delayed for some considerable time, was performed to-night (St. Columba's Day) by Dr. Lightfoot's successor, the occasion being Dr. Westcott's first official visit to Sunderland. The new church, which is built of brick, has cost, with furnishings, about £5,500, and is capable of holding 850 persons.

—Mr. H. M. Stanley, the eminent explorer, and party passed through Newcastle, *en route* for Edinburgh.

—The foundation stone of a new Sunday School in connection with the Salem Baptist Chapel, Salem Street, Jarrow, was laid by Miss D. D. Price, daughter of Ald. Price, J.P., of Jarrow.

10.—An exhibition, under the auspices of the Newcastle Sketching Club, was opened at the rooms in Collingwood Street, by Mr. G. R. Hedley.

### General Occurrences.

#### MAY.

12.—Mr. Thomas Bayley Potter, M.P., was presented with an address from the members of the Cobden Club, in recognition of his services to Free Trade.

—The Queen unveiled a bronze equestrian statue of the late Prince Consort, which had been presented to her Majesty as a jubilee offering by the women of England.

13.—Fifty-one of the crew and passengers of the schooner *Eliza Mary* were killed, roasted, and eaten by cannibals at the island of Mallicollo, New Hebrides.

—It was announced that Mr. H. M. Stanley was engaged to be married to Miss Dorothy Tennant.

—Lord Alcester, who commanded the English fleet at the bombardment of Alexandria, was seriously injured in Piccadilly by being knocked down by an omnibus.

14.—The trial of Major Panitza and others, for conspiring against the life of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, commenced to-day at Sofia, and terminated on the 30th. Major Panitza was sentenced to be shot, and some of his companions in crime were sentenced to terms of imprisonment.

16.—Thirty-six children were drowned through the overturning of a ferryboat at Siairkan, Silesia.

17.—A monument to the Right Hon. W. E. Forster was unveiled at Bradford.

20.—An International Miners' Conference was held at Jolimont, Belgium, and lasted several days. The British representatives consisted of forty delegates, including Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P., Mr. William Crawford, M.P., and Mr. Charles Fenwick, M.P.

23.—It was announced that the Queen had conferred the dignity of a peerage of the United Kingdom upon Prince Albert Victor, by the name, style, and title of Duke of Clarence and Avondale and Earl of Athlone.

27.—In the United States Senate during the debate on the Naval Supply Bill, Senator Blair, of New Hampshire, moved a proviso that the vote should not be available until the British Government had been requested by the President to withdraw all its naval forces from American waters and dismantle its fortifications in both North and South America. The proviso was negatived.

28.—The picture entitled "1814" by the French artist, Meissonier, representing Napoleon on horseback surrounded by his generals on the eve of his abdication, was sold for 850,000 francs—the highest price ever given for the work of a living artist.

29.—A number of Russian anarchists were arrested in Paris. Bombs and explosive materials were found in their possession.

30.—A Louis Quinze clock, which was to be seen at

Milton Hall, the Northamptonshire seat of the Fitzwilliam family, was sold to one of the Rothschilds for the princely sum of £30,000. The clock is said to have been a wedding present from a foreign potentate to a former Countess Fitzwilliam.

—Victor Rolla, a professional aeronaut, lost his life while attempting a parachute feat in Sweden. The balloon fell into the sea, and Rolla was drowned.

—The last stone of the spire of Ulm Cathedral was laid amidst general rejoicing. The cathedral is now the highest in the world, having an altitude of 530 feet.

31.—A railway train was completely blown over by a hurricane at Belgaum, near Calcutta. Some of the passengers were injured, but there was no loss of life.

#### JUNE.

3.—A tornado destroyed Bradshaw, a hamlet with some 500 inhabitants, in Central Nebraska, United States, eighty persons being killed and twenty-two wounded.

4.—The Duke of Orleans was released from Clairvaux prison, and conducted to the French frontier.

7.—The metropolitan temperance organisations and other societies opposed to the compensation clauses of the Government Licensing Bill held an imposing demonstration in Hyde Park. The number of persons present was between 100,000 and 150,000.

—The French Government issued a decree granting a partial or full pardon to 72 persons undergoing sentence for offences committed in connection with strikes.

—Miss Philippa G. Fawcett, only child of the late Professor Fawcett, Postmaster-General, obtained a



MISS PHILIPPA FAWCETT.

higher position than the Senior Wrangler in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos. This was the first time that a woman had attained this honour.

10.—Daniel Stewart Gorrie was hanged at Wandsworth for the murder of Thomas Furlonger at a bakery in Brixton on April 12 last.